***­­­­­­­­­­­­17836***

***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***June 16, 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

 Leigh Etheridge, Finance Director

 Chuck Hasty, Police Chief

 Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director

 Larry Chalker, Public Works Director

 John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director

 Stacy Coggins, Fire Chief

 Christina Caudle, Main Street/Development Director

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

Councilman Smith requested that an item be added to the agenda to discuss the Roanoke Rapids Theatre.

There being no conflict of interest with any of the items on the agenda, motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for June 16, 2015 as amended to add a discussion of the Roanoke Rapids Theatre.

Following remarks by Police Chief Hasty, Investigator Bobby Martin and Sergeant Terrence Tyler were presented framed Advanced Law Enforcement Certificates from the NCDOJ Criminal Justice Education & Training Standards Commission.

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Both Investigator Martin and Sergeant Tyler expressed gratitude to the City and their families.

Mayor Doughtie, on behalf of the City Council, thanked them both for their service to the City.

Mayor Doughtie stated Larry Cotton, a young man in our community, came to him about a once in a lifetime opportunity he was about to embark on. He stated he asked Larry to share his experience with Council.

Mr. Larry Cotton of 408 Madison Street, Roanoke Rapids, NC stated he is a rising senior at KIPP. He told of the amazing opportunity he had to attend the Washington Redskins’ training camp in Richmond. He stated he had the opportunity to practice with and be critiqued by professional football players. He stated this is only the beginning and he looks forward to continuing his journey.

Mr. Cotton’s mother further explained that her son was anonymously nominated for this opportunity of a lifetime and they hope to hear something by the end of August or first of September about the next round. She pointed out that although KIPP is a great school academically, it does not have an athletic program that provides the exposure that other schools get. Ms. Cotton thanked Mayor Doughtie for his support. She stated her son has framed the Mayor’s letter.

Mayor Doughtie thanked Mr. Cotton for coming and sharing his experience with Council. He stated he and the Council members will look forward to keeping up with him.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Cowen, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to approve the May 27, 2015 *(Special Meeting--Budget Work Session)* and June 2, 2015 *(Regular Meeting)* Council Minutes.

Finance Director Etheridge stated a budget amendment has been prepared for Council’s consideration that appropriates the $50,000 Good Faith Deposit from HSV Entertainment, LLC. She stated these funds will be used to make needed repairs at the Roanoke Rapids Theatre.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked if this amount will cover the known needed repairs.

City Manager Scherer stated yes.

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Councilman Smith asked how much the repairs have cost so far.

City Manager Scherer stated he does not have those numbers handy but Public Works Director Chalker may be able to provide an estimate.

Public Works Director Chalker stated they have spent about $5,000 on painting, about $9,000 on carpet or flooring and about $7,000 on scheduled maintenance of the Vortek rigging system. He stated they continue to work on the repairs. He stated they are patching and painting. He stated in areas where the carpet cannot be repaired due to wear and tear, they are replacing it. Public Works Director Chalker indicated that the alarm systems are up and running but they did have to spend a little money on them. He stated the fire and camera systems are both working.

Councilman Smith asked if we have spent about $20,000.

Public Works Director Chalker stated by the time they are done, it will probably be at least $20,000.

Councilman Bobbitt asked about the estimated time of completion for the repairs.

Public Works Director Chalker stated they have been concentrating on the lobby and public areas (auditorium and restrooms) first and they hope to be completed by the end of this week. He stated they will then work in the office areas.

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

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS:**

**SECTION 1.** The following additional amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of City Government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, according to the following schedule:

**SCHEDULE A - GENERAL FUND (OPERATING)**

 Other Supplies & Materials | Theatre $ 50,000

 **GENERAL FUND OPERATING TOTAL $ 50,000**

**SECTION 2.** The following additional revenues and reductions in appropriations are available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015 in order to meet the foregoing appropriations, according to the following schedule:

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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***June 16, 2015***

**SCHEDULE B - GENERAL FUND (OPERATING)**

 Good Faith Deposit | HSV $ 50,000

 **GENERAL FUND OPERATING TOTAL $ 50,000**

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Mayor Doughtie stated information on the upcoming budget has been presented to Council at numerous meetings and work sessions, and a public hearing was held on June 2.

City Manager Scherer stated we have developed a balanced budget for Council’s consideration based upon our best estimate of forecasted revenues, along with the uncertainty of pending sales tax revenue legislation at the State Legislature. He stated our employees continue to strive to be good stewards of our taxpayer dollars, always looking for ways to accomplish their jobs in the most efficient manner possible while maintaining an appropriate level of service to our citizens. City Manager Scherer stated this budget still provides the City with an undesignated fund balance of 22% which allows us to be prepared to weather any major emergency and still provides all our services as necessary. He stated we feel this budget demonstrates that we are doing the right things for our citizens and have also thought about how best to protect their future.

Councilwoman Scarbrough stated she has a couple of questions. She asked about the line item for railroad signal maintenance for $6,200 and the line item for railroad maintenance for $16,004 in the Public Works Department budget. She asked why we have to maintain the railroads for CSX.

Public Works Director Chalker explained that we have an agreement with CSX for maintenance, and this money is in place to pay for the maintenance of the crossings. He stated he found this out three or four years ago when he tried to cut this out of the budget. Public Works Director Chalker stated it is in the Council minutes that Council requested some of these crossings. He stated the $6,200 is for the maintenance of the signals and the $16,004 is for the general maintenance of the crossings. He pointed out that we do not actually do the maintenance but we did at one time resurface the crossing at Hamilton Street between 14th & Julian Allsbrook because CSX would not perform the work as fast as we wanted it done.

Councilwoman Scarbrough stated with all of the upgrades they did last year, there are still some crossings that have not been finished. She stated one is near Mayor Doughtie’s office and it is terrible, and someone said the crossing at the paper mill is just as bad. She asked if it was up to us to fix these crossings.

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Public Works Director Chalker stated no. He stated the crossings belong to CSX and they still maintain that they will be getting back here to finish. He stated they are doing a lot of crossings and left here to work on another project. He stated unfortunately, we have no control over that. Public Works Director Chalker pointed out that he even spoke with DOT because some of the crossings are on their streets.

Councilwoman Scarbrough stated the two she spoke about are on DOT roads.

Public Works Director Chalker stated Ronnie Keeter with NCDOT has talked with DOT’s Liaison with CSX about this.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked if other towns have the same type of agreement we have to maintain crossings.

Public Works Director Chalker stated he does not know.

Mayor Doughtie stated CSX performs the maintenance and they bill us. He stated all of us remember when CSX came to us about four or five years ago and wanted to close the crossings near the old West Point Stevens property. He stated we decided at that time that the financial benefit was not worth it.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated we had a lot of residents concerned about having to drive further around if the crossings were closed.

Councilman Bobbitt stated there are two crossings on West 13th Street. He stated one is paved and the other one is not. He asked Public Works Director Chalker if that crossing is on the list.

Public Works Director Chalker stated yes. He stated all of the crossings they did not get to the first time will be done.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked Parks & Recreation Director Simeon if the Roanoke Rapids Graded School District would be using the Aquatic Center this year.

Parks & Recreation Director Simeon stated yes.

Councilwoman Scarbrough stated in FY 2013 - 2014, the Roanoke Rapids Graded School District paid us $2,027 for use of the Aquatic Center.

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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***June 16, 2015***

Parks & Recreation Director Simeon stated no, that money was for maintenance items that came up due to the upcoming swim team schedule. He stated the School District replaced the window in the office, replaced tiles in the main office and painted locker rooms.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked if the School District pays to use the Aquatic Center.

Parks & Recreation Director Simeon stated no. He stated we have a joint use agreement with the School District. He stated they use our facilities at no cost and we use their facilities at no cost. He pointed out that the School District from time to time makes improvements at the Aquatic Center and they also replaced the swimming lane ropes and the diving platform. Parks & Recreation Director Simeon stated they offer quite a bit of help with the facility.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked the City Manager to define “revenue-neutral tax rate”.

City Manager Scherer explained that it is a rate which makes up for the potential loss of income based upon the downward revaluation of property.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked the revenue-neutral tax rate recommended in the budget.

City Manager Scherer stated $.651 per one hundred dollars valuation. He stated this was based on projections by the County Tax Office and also based on a 96% collection rate.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked if we are trucking along to that.

City Manager Scherer stated yes. He stated the last time he spoke with the County, it was 98%.

Mayor Doughtie stated we do not have a lot of money appropriated for the day to day operation of the Theatre.

City Manager Scherer stated we have proposed an allocation of $30,000 along with the remaining funds from HSV.

Mayor Doughtie asked if we would still have to use any funds from the undesignated fund balance.

City Manager Scherer stated he hopes we can obtain some rental income from the Theatre.

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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

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Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated this year was an extremely tough budget year. He stated he knows we have been good stewards of the City’s money but he has mixed emotions whenever it appears that there is an increase in taxes. He stated due to the devaluation of some properties some people may actually pay less. Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated he wishes more people were here tonight to hear this. He stated he has been on the Council for a long time and when we have had larger increases, it did not sit well with our citizens. He stated we still have to work with what we have and not lessen our number of employees.

Mayor Doughtie explained the revenue-neutral tax rate and stated it will not mean much of an increase in the amount people will owe. He stated unfortunately, not many people read what comes out about tax rates and what the City Council has to do. He stated our costs continue to go up and our revenues continue to go down.

Councilman Smith stated in looking at the department heads as we get ready to approve this budget, he wishes we could have provided them more. He stated last year we promised them it would be better--and it is worse. He stated he feels bad about cutting things from their budgets. Councilman Smith stated he has gone over this budget line by line and has seen the cuts that were made. He stated he appreciates what our department heads do and wonders if they have looked at the budget because they would be raising Cain. Councilman Smith stated he hopes we can get things straightened out with the Theatre so when we tell the department heads things will be better, that they will be better. He stated again that he appreciates every department head and what they do for the City Council. He thanked them for their patience and for staying with the City of Roanoke Rapids.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Cowen, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adopt the following FY 2015 - 2016 Budget Ordinance:

***BE IT ORDAINED*** by the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina that the following anticipated fund revenues and departmental expenditures together with a certain Fee and Charge Schedule, and with certain restrictions and authorizations, are hereby appropriated and approved for the operation of the City Government and its activities for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

***SUMMARY***

 General Fund (Operating) $13,462,091.00

 General Fund (Capital) 270,000.00

 Municipal Swimming Pool 36,150.00

 Drug Enforcement Fund 30,000.00

 Roanoke Rapids Theatre 1,795,996.00

 **TOTAL $15,594,237.00**

***17843***

***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***June 16, 2015***

***Section 1. General Fund***

**Anticipated Revenues:**

 2015 Ad Valorem Taxes $7,332,371.00

 Prior Years Ad Valorem Taxes & Penalties 170,050.00

 Payments in Lieu of Taxes 28,050.00

 NC Tax and Tags 797,252.00

 Lease Vehicles 18,469.00

 Privilege Licenses 1,000.00

Powell Bill Street Allocations 465,359.00

 Sales Tax 2,792,854.00

 Solid Waste Disposal Tax 7,627.00

 ABC Profits 38,500.00

 Christmas Parade 3,500.00

 Police Grants and Donations 6,250.00

 Fire Grants and Donations 3,000.00

 Recreation Grants 22,980.00

 Senior Center Grants and Donations 79,850.00

 Library Grants and Donations 17,229.00

 Public Works Grants 5,000.00

 Roanoke Canal Museum Grants and Donations 18,000.00

 Solid Waste User Fees and Penalties 1,293,990.00

 Court Costs 4,350.00

 Animal Control 675.00

 Inspection Fees 3,650.00

 Lot Cutting Revenue 8,250.00

 Cemetery Revenue 110,250.00

 Recreation User Fees 100,650.00

 Roanoke Canal Museum Fees 1,700.00

 Community Center Receipts 50,500.00

 Lease Revenue 17,492.00

 Planning/Zoning Fees 89,050.00

 Public Works Fees 7,500.00

 Library User Fees 17,445.00

 Utility Franchise Taxes 1,200,000.00

 Beer and Wine Tax 78,280.00

 Miscellaneous Grants 40,000.00

 Miscellaneous Revenue 3,000.00

 Insurance Reimbursement 5,000.00

 Cable Franchise Fees 27,500.00

 Interest Earnings – General Fund 1,133.00

 Sale of Wreck Reports 5,200.00

 Occupancy Tax 2,500.00

 Sale of Surplus Property 45,000.00

 RR Sanitary District – Closeout CDBG 107,631.00

 Fund Balance – Regular 500,000.00

 **TOTAL REVENUES $15,528,087.00**

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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***June 16, 2015***

 **Authorized Expenditures:**

 **Operating**

 Legislative $62,026.00

 General Government 1,496,576.00

 Administrative 299,450.00

 Main Street Development 55,991.00

 Elections 4,100.00

 Finance 252,454.00

 Information Systems 49,630.00

 Revenue Collections 238,635.00

 Legal 38,000.00

 Planning & Development 415,164.00

 Government Buildings 105,224.00

 Police 2,955,495.00

 Fire 1,759,475.00

 Public Works 454,487.00

 Central Garage 240,674.00

 Combined Street and Powell Bill 1,385,466.00

 Solid Waste 613,943.00

 Recycling 2,500.00

 Mercury Recycling Grant 2,175.00

 Refuse 365,146.00

 T. J. Davis Center 282,574.00

 Aquatic Center 204,709.00

 T. J. Davis Outdoor Pool 6,000.00

 Parks and Recreation Maintenance 383,280.00

 Chaloner Center 95,656.00

 Senior Center 93,778.00

 Transportation Grant 15,891.00

 Andrews Meeting Hall 21,200.00

 Miscellaneous Grants 216,000.00

 Community Center 60,886.00

 Library 300,103.00

 Cemetery 114,381.00

 Property Maintenance 247,480.00

 Roanoke Canal Museum 87,399.00

 Miscellaneous 18,500.00

 Debt Service 463,421.00

 Capital Reserve 54,222.00

 **Subtotal Operating Expenditures $13,462,091.00**

 **General Fund Capital 270,000.00**

 **Roanoke Rapids Theatre**

 Theatre Debt Payment **$1,795,996.00**

 **TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES $15,528,087.00**

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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***June 16, 2015***

***Section 2. Municipal Swimming Pool Fund***

 **Anticipated Revenues:**

 Interest Earnings $800.00

 Concession Revenue 5,700.00

 Miscellaneous Revenue 2,000.00

 Special Programs 17,850.00

 Kings Dominion Ticket Sales 2,000.00

 Athletic Sponsorships 7,800.00

**TOTAL REVENUES $36,150.00**

 **Authorized Expenditures:**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES $36,150.00**

***Section 3. Drug Enforcement Fund***

**Anticipated Revenues:**

 Drug Forfeiture Revenue $30,000.00

**TOTAL REVENUES $30,000.00**

 **Authorized Expenditures:**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES $30,000.00**

***Section 4. Additional Appropriations***

A. An additional appropriation is hereby made from the Fund Balance in each respective fund for an amount equal to all outstanding encumbrances on June 30, 2015.

B. An additional appropriation is hereby made from the Fund Balance in each respective fund for an amount equal to all unencumbered line item balances at June 30, 2015 having derived from contributions, donations or grant funds.

***Section 5. Fee Schedule***

There is hereby established for the Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 various fees and charges as scheduled herewith:

***Revenue/Tax Department***

Business Solid Waste User Fee & Disposal Fee $17.05 per Container per month

Roll-Out Containers $17.05 for each Additional Container

Residential Solid Waste Fee $204.50 per Residential Unit per year

 $204.50 per year for 2nd Container

Roll-Out Containers City cost per Container

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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

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Motor Vehicle Tax $ 6.00 per Licensed Vehicle

Municipal Taxi/Limo Tax $15.00 per Vehicle

City Beer & Wine Retail Licenses**\***

 On-premises malt beverage $15.00

 Off-premises malt beverage $ 5.00

 On-premises unfortified wine, on-premises fortified wine, or both $15.00

 Off-premises unfortified wine, off-premises fortified wine, or both $10.00

**\*Tax on Additional License - The tax stated above is the tax for the first license issued to a person. The tax for each additional license of the same type issued to that person for the same year is one hundred ten percent (110%) of the base license tax, that increase to apply progressively for each additional license.**

City Beer & Wine Wholesaler License $37.50

Advertising of Delinquent Tax Bill $ 4.00 per Parcel

***The Roanoke Rapids Theatre***

Facilities Fee $2.00 for each ticket sold on-line

***General Government***

Photocopies $.20 per copy/Letter Size B/W

 $.25 per copy/Letter Size Color

 $.25 per copy/Legal Size B/W

 $.30 per copy/Legal Size Color

 $.30 per copy/Oversize B/W

 $.35 per copy/Oversize Color

Recording Fees Fees correspond with Fees Set by Halifax

 County Register of Deeds

***Police Department***

Taxi Permits $50.00

Incident Reports $ 6.00

Accident Reports $ 6.00

Fingerprinting $10.00

Photographs $10.00

Animal Disposal Fee $10.00 per Animal

Beekeeping Permit $ 5.00 per Hive

***Public Works Department***

Driveway Permits $40.00 each Driveway

Lot Cutting Fees and Abatement Cost plus $250.00 Administrative Fee

Debris Removal & Special Collections

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 Collection Costs

 Small Pickup $25.00 per load

 35 Foot Trailer $55.00 per load

 Disposal Fees

 Transfer Station $46.97 per ton

 Landfill $47.00 per ton or current price

 Tub Grinding $ 4.00 per cubic yard

Permit to Dig in Street (Utility Cuts) $400.00 per cut

Cemetery Lot Fees Resident:

 Sections A-E - $1,000.00 per 4 Grave Plot

 Section G - $800.00 per Site

 Section H - $250.00 per Space

 Section I - $500.00 per Space

 Section J - $1,000.00 per 2 Grave Companion Plot

 Section K - $2,000.00 per 4 Grave Plot

 Section L - $1,200.00 per 2 Grave Companion Plot

 Section O - $500.00 per Space

 Non-Resident:

 Sections A-E - $2,000.00 per 4 Grave Plot

 Section G - $1,600.00 per Site

 Section H - $500.00 per Space

 Section I - $1,000.00 per Space

 Section J - $2,000.00 per 2 Grave Companion Plot

 Section K - $4,000.00 per 4 Grave Plot

 Section L - $2,400.00 per 2 Grave Companion Plot

 Section O - $1,000.00 per Space

Cemetery Grave Preparation (Residents & Non-Residents) Monday – Friday: $700.00\*

 Weekends and Holidays: $900.00

***\*Overtime charge of $75.00 per hour after 2:00 p.m. on weekdays.***

Foundation Fees (Residents & Non-Residents) $150.00

***Note: Urn burials are one-half (1/2) the regular fee.***

Cemetery Deed Fee Fees correspond with Fees Set by Halifax

 County Register of Deeds

***Library***

Library Non-Resident Borrower Card $20.00 per year

Replacement of Lost Card $ 5.00 each

Photocopies $ .20 per copy/Letter Size

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 $ .25 per copy/Legal Size

 $ .30 per copy/Oversize

Computer Printouts $ .40 each

Videocassette Rental $ .50 each

Fines: Juvenile Books $ .15 per day (Max. $3.60)

 Juvenile Cassettes $ .15 per day (Max. $3.60)

 Adult Books $ .20 per day (Max. $5.00)

 All Magazines $ .20 per day (Max. $4.00)

 Adult Audiobooks $ .30 per day (Max. $6.00)

 Adult Music Cassettes $ .25 per day (Max. $5.00)

 Videocassettes $ 1.00 per day (Max. $12.00)

 Video Not Rewound $ 1.00 each

 Video in Bookdrop $ 2.00 each

 Equipment $ 5.00 per day

 Long Overdue Fine $15.00 each

Interlibrary Loan: Postage Fee $ 5.00 per item\*

 Overdue Fine for City of Roanoke Rapids $ .50 per day (Max. $10.00)

 Overdue Fine/Copies Varies\*

***\* Established by and payable to Lending Library.***

Lost or Badly Damaged Items Replacement Cost for Item plus $5.00

 Non Refundable Processing Fee

Damaged Material: Adult Audiobook Cassettes $ 8.00 each

 Adult Audiobook CD’s $10.00 each

 Adult Audiobook Cases $ 6.00 each

 Adult Audiobook CD Cases $10.00 each

 Audio Cassette Box $ 1.00 each

 Barcode $ 1.50 each

 Blue Music Pouches $ 1.00 each

 Book Covers $ 2.00 each

 Cleaning Fee $ 2.00 each

 Juvenile Book/Cassette Bags $ 2.00 each

 Pockets $ .50 each

 Repair of Torn Pages $ .50 each

 Video Black Cases – Single $ 2.50 each

 Video Black Cases – Double $ 4.00 each

Sale Books & Videos (Unusable gift books or books deleted from our collection):

 Magazines $ .10 each

 Paperbacks $ .25 each

 Hardbacks $ .50 – 3.00 each (Depending on age &

 condition of book)

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 Audiobooks $ 1.00 – 5.00 each (Depending on age &

 condition & # of cassettes/CD’s)

 Videos $ 2.00 – 5.00 each (Depending on age &

 condition & # of cassettes/DVD’s)

Library Class Fees:

Classes offered through the Library shall be set up on a “break even” basis paying for the cost of the instructor and supplies. In addition, a $2.00 per participant maintenance/utility fee will be charged. The charge for classes will be based on breaking even with 10 participants with instructors paid on the following basis:

 $10.00/session for 10 – 14 participants

 $12.50/session for 15 – 19 participants

 $15.00/session for 20 & over participants

 *Non-Residents will be charged cost plus 100%.*

***Parks & Recreation***

Class Fees:

Classes offered through the T. J. Davis Recreation Center shall be set up on a “break even” basis paying for the cost of the instructor and supplies. In addition, a $2.00 per participant maintenance/utility fee will be charged. The charge for classes will be based on breaking even with 10 participants with instructors paid on the following basis:

 $10.00/session for 10 – 14 participants

 $12.50/session for 15 – 19 participants

 $15.00/session for 20 & over participants

 *Non-Residents will be charged cost plus 100%.*

Athletic Fees:

Adult Athletics – Team registration fees are based on breaking even on direct cost (officials, trophies, scorekeepers/field supervisors, etc.). In addition, a $10.00/game maintenance/utility fee will be charged for basketball and $5.00/game for softball.

In addition, non-resident adults will be charged $25.00.

Youth Athletics Resident Youth: $15.00 Non-Resident Youth: $45.00

Athletic User Fee: Resident: $5.00 Non-Resident: $10.00

Softball Field Rental Fees: $7.00/game per field for tournaments. A $25.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a field which is applied to field rental and can be refunded if tournament is cancelled 30 days in advance.

Picnic Shelter Reservation Fees: $20.00/day for Residents and

 $40.00/day for Non-Residents for Emry, Rochelle and

 Chockoyotte Shelters

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Recreation I.D. Card Fees: $10.00 for Youths

 $25.00 for Adults

T. J. Davis Room Rental Fees:

 Multi-purpose and Chum’s Corner (larger rooms) $30.00 per rental for non-profit group or individual resident

 $40.00 per rental for private or corporate groups

 Classroom (smaller room) $25.00 per rental for non-profit group or individual resident

 $30.00 per rental for private or corporate groups

T. J. Davis Center/Gym Rental Fees: $50.00 Resident, $90.00 Non-Resident (after hours) per hour

 with a minimum of 2 hours

 $30.00 per hour for Non-Resident School Groups during

 non-peak normal operating hours

Centennial Park Only Rental Fee: $20.00 flat rate per day

 $40.00 Non-Resident

Centennial Park & Andrews Building Wedding Rental Fees:\*

 Rates $30.00 per hour for Residents

 $60.00 per hour for Non-Residents

***\*Minimum rental time of three (3) hours.***

Andrews Building Set-Up Fee: $15.00 per 50 chairs for Residents

 $30.00 per 50 chairs for Non-Residents

Chaloner Recreation Center Rental Fee:\* $35.00 per hour for Residents

 $55.00 per hour for Non-Residents

***\*The Chaloner Recreation Center can be rented for after-hours use. Rental is for a minimum of two (2) hours.***

Kirkwood F. Adams Community Center Fees:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   **AREA** |   **CAPACITY** | **WEEKDAY RATE (10 A.M. - 5 P.M.)** | **NIGHT/WEEKEND RATE (5 P.M. FRI. - 2 A.M. MON.)** |
|  **RESIDENT** | **NON-RESIDENT** |  **FOR-PROFIT** |  **RESIDENT** | **NON-RESIDENT** |  **FOR-PROFIT** |
| Entire Center | 700 w/chairs only 500 w/tables & chairs | $51.00/Hour | $76.00/Hour | $63.00/Hour Res$94.00/Hour NR | $60.00/Hour | $90.00/Hour | $71.00/Hour Res$106.00/Hour NR |
| Chair Set Up Fee | will be prorated for #s less than 100 | $45.00/100 | $65.00/100 | $56.00/100 Res$83.00/100 NR | $45.00/100 | $65.00/100 | $56.00/100 Res$83.00/100 NR |

 Non Refundable Reservation Deposit: $100.00

 **MAXIMUM DAILY RATE: $800.00 – Resident/$1,000.00 – Non-Residents. THE CENTER MUST BE RENTED FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE (3) HOURS.**

 Non-Profit Organizations sponsoring charitable fund raising events using the center for 24 hours or more will be given a 50% discount.

 Non-Profit Organizations sponsoring weekday-daytime workshops or meetings for public benefit will be given a 50% discount.

 The following organizations are fee exempt for two (2) nighttime or weekend activities each year: *(1) Rescue Squad, (2) Bloodmobile & (3) City Sponsored Senior Citizens Groups.*

 Main Street RR is fee exempt for four (4) nighttime or weekend activities each year for Main Street RR sponsored events.

 Main Street RR is fee exempt for use of the plaza for Main Street RR sponsored events.

 ♦If the Center is not left in acceptable condition, a fee of $15.00/per man-hour for cleaning shall be charged.

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 ♦If anything is left in the Center overnight, there will be a $25.00 storage fee.

 ♦Round Tables are available for rent for $6.00 per table.

 ♦Roanoke Rapids City Schools Events: $225.00

 ♦Chamber of Commerce is a partner of the City of Roanoke Rapids. They have the right to schedule events before the month is available to the public. They are treated as a City department in terms of scheduling the facility.

Roanoke Canal Museum Fees:

 General Admission *(All General Admission is for self-guided tours only.)*

•$2.00 Halifax County Residents

 •$4.00 for All Persons who Reside Outside of Halifax County

 •Free for Children 8 and Under (exception of guided tours)

 Guided Tour Admission

 •$2.00 per Person 4 and older, no additional discount, minimum of 10 persons or $20.00 fee

Aquatic Center:

 *(Labor Day to Memorial Day)*

Aquatic Center Open and Lap Swim

 Residents $ 3.00

 Non-Residents $ 6.00

 Resident Senior (55+) $ 2.25

 Non-Resident Senior (55+) $ 4.50

 RED CROSS CLASSES

 Toddler (Resident) $ 30.00

 Toddler (Non-Resident) $ 60.00

 Levels I – VII (Resident) $ 45.00

 Levels I – VII (Non-Resident) $ 90.00

 Lifeguard/CPR Classes:

 Resident $ 75.00

 Non-Resident $150.00

 Challenge: $ 45.00

 WSI Classes:

 Resident $ 80.00

 Non-Resident $160.00

 Individual Lessons:

 Resident $ 50.00

 Non-Resident $100.00

 AQUACISE & ARTHRITIS FITNESS CLASSES

 Resident $ 2.75

 Non-Resident $ 5.50

 Annual Passes: *(This is the cost from January to December 31. The fees are prorated down each month.)*

 Family Resident $365.00

 Family Non-Resident $730.00

 Individual Resident $200.00

 Individual Non-Resident $400.00

 Resident Senior (55+) $155.00

 Non-Resident Senior (55+) $310.00

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 *(Memorial Day to Labor Day)*

Aquatic Center Open and Lap Swim

 Residents $ 3.50

 Non-Residents $ 7.00

 Resident Senior (55+) $ 2.00

 Non-Resident Senior (55+) $ 4.00

 T. J. Davis Pool

 RED CROSS CLASSES (Same as Aquatic Center)

Outdoor Pools Open and Lap Swim

 Residents $ 3.00

 Non-Residents $ 6.00

 Resident Senior (55+) $ 2.00

 Non-Resident Senior (55+) $ 4.00

 Wade Pool

 Residents $ 1.75

 Non-Residents $ 3.50

 Outdoor Pool Passes (Residents Only):

 Child & Adult $ 94.00

 Family $188.00

 Seniors (55+) $ 59.00

 Aquatic Center & T. J. Davis Pools Rental

 *(Minimum of Two (2) Hours)* Resident Non-Resident

 Up to 25 participants $ 90.00/hr. $110.00/hr.

 26 to 50 participants $115.00/hr. $140.00/hr.

 51 to 75 participants $140.00/hr. $175.00/hr.

 Discount: A 10% discount will be given to groups, organizations and

 corporations that have 20 or more in attendance at one time

 or purchase passes for 20 or more.

 KapStone (monthly fee) $250.00

 Halifax Academy Swim Team (per land, per hour) $ 10.00

 Swim Meet – Ticket Price (8 years older & above) $ 5.00

 ***(Everyone pays except school swimmers and 2 coaches from each team, timers are not exempt.)***

ECA - year-round swim team (per person, per month) $ 30.00

***Planning & Development***

Rezoning Petition $350.00

Voluntary Annexation Petition $250.00

Zoning Compliance Certification Letters $ 50.00 per individual site

Conditional Use Permit $350.00

Special Event Permit $ 35.00

Special Event Permit (events designed to attract 5,000 or more spectators or participants) $250.00

Ordinance Text Amendment Petition $350.00

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Variance Petition $350.00

Land Use Violation $ 50.00 per day

Land Use Permit $ 50.00

Business Use Permit $ 75.00

Temporary Power $ 50.00

Processing Fee for petitioner withdrawal of Variance Petition, Conditional

 Use Permit or Rezoning Petition $350.00

Site Plan Review $200.00 per site plan review\*

 <30,000 ft2 of impervious surface

 $700.00 per site plan review

 >30,000 ft2 of impervious surface

***\*This fee shall increase to $70.00 whenever the services of an outside engineering firm is necessary and retained by the City to evaluate a specific drainage problem area outside of the expertise of the City Public Works Director. This is to be determined on a case by case basis upon review of proposed development site plans.***

Halifax County Plan Review Fee\* $ 50.00

***\*All plans, determined by Planning staff to require review by the Halifax County Building Inspections Department, shall be subject to this fee prior to review.***

Street Closing Petition $475.00

Final Subdivision Plat

 Minor Subdivision $ 50.00

 Major Subdivision

 With Improvements $100.00 plus $50.00/lot

 Without Improvements $ 75.00 plus $25.00/lot

***Note: The petitioner is responsible for all associated advertising expenses.***

Maps $ 5.00 per sheet

Land Use Ordinance (to recover actual per copy duplicating costs) $ 30.00

Comprehensive Development Plan $ 15.00

Zoning Maps (Color)

 Small $ 15.00

 Large $ 30.00

Electrical Inspection of Existing Structure Requested by Power Company $ 35.00

Issuance of Certificate of Compliance

 Major Renovations (More than $30,000.00) $ 75.00

 Minor Renovations ($30,000.00 or less) $ 35.00

Failure to Call for Proper Inspection $100.00

Removal of a Notice of Lis Pendens $ 50.00

Home Occupation Permit $ 50.00

Recombination Plat $ 50.00

Supplement plan review fees for wireless communication facilities shall be charged in addition to a City processing fee as follows:

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 **Review** **City Processing** **3rd Party Supp.**

 (1) Concealed Attached WCF $ 750.00 $1,000.00

 (2) Collocated or Combined WCF $ 750.00 $1,000.00

 (3) Freestanding Concealed WCF $1,000.00 $1,000.00

 (4) Non-concealed Freestanding WCF $1,000.00 $1,000.00

Code Enforcement Division Fees:

ABC Permit Application Inspection Fee $ 75.00 per inspection

Building Permit:

 (A) A permit to demolish or remove any size structure shall be issued upon proper application. Fees for such demolition or removal are as follows:

 (1) Moving of an approved structure $100.00

 (2) Demolish structure $100.00

 (B) A permit to modify, construct and/or erect advertising signs shall be issued, upon proper application, in accordance with the following schedule:

 ***Type of Sign and Work Fee Per Sign Face***

Erection of outdoor advertising (off-premises) sign $175.00

 Erection of principal use signs:

 Fifty (50) sq. ft. or less $ 50.00

 More than fifty (50) sq. ft. $100.00

 Erection of commercial accessory signs $ 10.00

 Erection of temporary signs $ 10.00

 Modification of existing signs $ 10.00

 (C) City building inspection fees for new construction, additions, and alterations of all structures shall be the greater of fifty dollars ($50.00) or the applicable amount based upon a schedule of three dollars ($3.00) per one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) of construction value. For the purposes of this subsection, construction value shall be the greater of the value derived utilizing either the Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc., *Building Valuation Data* or the sum of all building related costs for the project.

 (D) In addition to any other fees established by the provisions of this section, whenever a general contractor applies for the issuance of a permit for the construction of any single-family residential dwelling unit, the general contractor shall pay a fee in the amount of five dollars ($5.00) for each dwelling unit to be constructed or altered under the permit.

Plumbing Permit:

 (A) A plumbing permit shall be issued, upon proper application, for a fee of fifty dollars ($50.00) plus five dollars ($5.00) per fixture.

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Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Permit:

 (A) Permit fees for installation or replacement of the following shall be fifty dollars ($50.00) plus the applicable amount in accordance with Schedule I:

 (1) Each boiler or furnace, including duct distribution system thereof when covered by the same permit, or duct distribution system thereof only.

 (2) Each floor furnace, wall circulator or heater, circulating heater, direct-fired unit heater, gas radiator, blast furnace, rotary dryer, annealing furnace and duct heater industrial oven.

 (3) Conversion or replacement of mechanical firing equipment.

**SCHEDULE I**

 ***Fossil Fuel (BTU/HR) Fee***

50,000 or less $15.00

 50,001 to 100,000 $20.00

 100,001 to 200,000 $25.00

 Above 200,000 $30.00

 (B) Permit fees for installation or replacement of the following shall be fifty dollars ($50.00) plus the applicable amount in accordance with Schedule II. Each air conditioning or heat pump system, including major components and duct distribution system thereof when covered by same permit, or duct distribution system thereof only, or major component only.

**SCHEDULE II**

 ***Air Conditioning Compressor Rating Fee***

***(Nominal) - Tons***

5 or less $15.00

 5.1 to 15 $20.00

 15.1 to 50 $30.00

 Above 50 $40.00

*An additional five dollars ($5.00) fee for split systems.*

 (C) Permit fees for installation or replacement of the following shall be fifty dollars ($50.00) plus the applicable amount in accordance with Schedule III. Each refrigeration system including major component only.

**SCHEDULE III**

 ***Refrigeration Compressor Rating Fee***

***(Nominal) - Tons***

5 or less $15.00

 5.1 to 15 $20.00

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 Above 15 $25.00

 (D) Permit fees for installation or replacement of the following shall be fifty dollars ($50.00) plus the applicable amount in accordance with Schedule IV. Each hood over cooking ranges (in other than residences and multi-family houses), candy kettles, cruller furnaces and appliances for frying, barbecuing, broiling and bakery (baking) of foods, including exhaust duct system thereof when covered by the same permit, or exhaust duct system thereof only.

**SCHEDULE IV**

 ***Fee***

10 or less $15.00

 10.1 to 50 $20.00

 50.1 to 100 $25.00

 Above 100 $30.00

 (E) Permit fees for the installation or replacement of any blower or fan in other than residences installed for ventilation or removal of dust, gases, fumes and vapors shall be fifty dollars ($50.00) each.

 (F) Permit fees for the modification, repair or replacement of duct systems shall be fifty dollars ($50.00) each.

 (G) Permit fees for the installation or replacement of gas appliances and piping shall be fifty dollars ($50.00). No permit shall be required for the replacement of a gas appliance where piping is not altered.

Electrical Permit:

 (A) An electrical permit shall be issued, upon proper application, for a fee of fifty dollars ($50.00) plus the applicable amount in accordance with the following schedule:

 (1) Outlets:

 Each 220 volt outlet $ 3.50

 Each 110 volt outlet $ .30

 (2) Motors:

 Each motor $ 3.50

 (B) Electrical change of service greater than 400 amp: $90.00

Mobile Home Permit:

A mobile home permit shall be issued upon proper application for a fee of fifty dollars ($50.00).

Fire Sprinkler System Permit:

A fire sprinkler system permit shall be issued upon proper application for a fee of fifty dollars ($50.00) plus one cent ($.01) per square foot of protected area.

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Insulation Permit:

An insulation permit shall be issued upon proper application for a fee of fifty dollars ($50.00) plus one cent ($.01) per square foot of floor area.

Reinspections:

The above fees entitle the applicant to one inspection. For each extra inspection made necessary through the failure of any person in charge of work to install in the proper manner or to otherwise create conditions making such additional inspection or trip necessary, there will be an additional charge of thirty-five dollars ($35.00). When a third party inspection agency is involved, there will be an additional charge of seventy dollars ($70.00).

General Miscellaneous Permit Refund Processing Fee $ 30.00

Fee for Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.) $ 75.00

Commercial Building (Preliminary Plan, Construction Plan) Review:

 Technical Review $250.00

 Additional Charge per review for failure to satisfy review comments $100.00

 Plan Review Sites less than 10,000 sq. ft. $125.00

Penalty:

An additional charge equal to one-half (1/2) the required permit fee (minimum fee $100) shall be added to the permit fees previously set forth for failure to initially secure a permit prior to starting a job or commencing any work on a building or service system before obtaining the necessary permit.

***Section 6. Levy of Taxes***

There is hereby levied for the Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 an Ad Valorem Tax Rate of $.651 per One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) valuation of taxable property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2015, for the purpose of raising the revenue from current taxes as set forth in the foregoing estimates of revenues, and in order to finance the foregoing applicable appropriations. This rate of tax is based on an estimated valuation of $1,147,159,749. ***Taxpayers who pay their bill in July or August will receive a two percent (2%) discount.***

***Section 7. Summary of Items Included in the Capital Budget***

 Generator Replacement/City Hall $32,000.00

 Patrol Vehicles 70,000.00

 25 Air Packs 68,000.00

Annual Resurfacing Program 100,000.00

***Section 8. Special Authorizations – Budget Officer***

A. The Budget Officer or his designee shall be authorized to reallocate appropriations within departments, and among the various line accounts not organized by departments, as he deems necessary.

B. The Budget Officer or his designee shall be authorized to execute interdepartmental transfers, within the same fund, not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the appropriated monies for the department whose allocation is reduced.

C. Interfund transfers, established in the Budget Ordinance, may be accomplished without additional approval from the City Council.

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D. The Budget Officer or his designee shall be authorized to make releases and refunds of property taxes less than $100.00 which have been levied or collected in error. The Budget Officer shall report in writing monthly to the City Council in regard to releases and refunds made.

E. The Mayor or City Manager shall be authorized to execute contractual agreements in the following specified areas: Consultant, Professional, Maintenance/Service Agreements and Acceptance of State and Federal Grant Funds.

***Section 9. Restrictions – Budget Officer***

A. Interfund and interdepartmental transfer of monies, except as noted in Section 8, shall be accomplished by City Council authorizations only.

B. Utilization of appropriations contained in Contingencies may be accomplished only with specific approval of the City Council.

***Section 10. Billing and Collecting of Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fees Under NCGS 160A-314.1***

The residential solid waste collection and disposal fee shall be billed with property taxes, shall be payable in the same manner as property taxes, and, in the case of non-payment, shall be collected in any manner by which delinquent personal or real property taxes can be collected. The fees are a lien on the real property described on the bill that includes the fee. The Residential Solid Waste Fee is $204.50 per residential unit per year and the Business Solid Waste User Fee and Disposal Fee is $17.05 per container per month.

***Section 11. Cost of Living Adjustment***

A two percent (2%) across the board cost of living increase for all City employees shall begin with the payroll dated July 31, 2015. The City of Roanoke Rapids Salary Schedule shall be amended to reflect this change.

***Section 12. Supplemental Retirement Plan Contributions***

The City will make an employer contribution to a supplemental retirement plan for non-law enforcement employees during Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016. If employees contribute to the supplemental retirement plan, the City will match dollar for dollar up to a maximum of three percent (3%).

***Section 13. Utilization of Budget Ordinance***

This Ordinance shall be the basis of the financial plan for the City of Roanoke Rapids municipal government during the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year. The Budget Officer shall administer the Budget and he shall ensure that operating officials are provided guidance and sufficient details to implement their appropriate portion of the Budget. The Finance Department shall establish and maintain all records which are in consonance with this Budget Ordinance, and the appropriate Statutes of the State of North Carolina.

***ADOPTED*** this 16th day of June, 2015.

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Lisa B. Vincent, City Clerk**

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 **Approved as to form:**

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Gilbert Chichester, City Attorney**

Mayor Doughtie stated this has been a difficult budget to put together. He stated we cannot promise that it will be better next year but we can promise that we will do all we can to try to make it better.

City Manager Scherer stated an ordinance has been prepared to amend Section 30.16 “Time and Place” of the Roanoke Rapids Code of Ordinances to change the time of the Council meeting held on the third Tuesday each month from 7:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. He stated the 7:00 p.m. time was to allow more people to attend but very few, if anyone, attends the 7:00 meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked if the time could be changed if we saw a need for meeting at a later hour.

City Manager Scherer stated yes.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Smith 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 be amended to read as follows:

**§ 30.16 TIME AND PLACE.**

 Regular meetings of the Roanoke Rapids City Council shall be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5:15 p.m. at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall at 700 Jackson Street.

**SECTION 2.** This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Councilman Smith stated he thinks it is time that City Council took responsibility and see if we can straighten out this situation with the Theatre. He stated he has been on the Council for a year and a half and we keep saying that we are going to sell the Theatre. He stated we need to take the bull by the horns and do what needs to be done. He stated we also need to quit blaming other people. Councilman Smith stated he has several questions about the Theatre: *(1) Do we have a price list set up to rent the facility? (2) When will it*

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*be ready to rent out? (3) Have we contacted anyone about listing the Theatre for sale? (4) Have we set a date and goals for selling the property? (5) Does the City Council need to authorize the City Manager to have someone stay out at the Theatre? (6) Do we need to put a City employee out there and hire a part-time worker to fill that position?*

City Manager Scherer stated Finance Director Etheridge has contacted the Local Government Commission (LGC) to see the process for selling public property. He stated they provided to her information that included an application; however, they expressed concern about the restructuring of the existing debt that will be left. He stated this does not make sense to him based on the conversations with Bank of America.

Councilman Smith asked if we have contacted the LGC about this.

City Manager Scherer stated yes. He stated we are waiting to hear back from them.

Councilman Smith stated we need to send them an email every day until we get an answer. He stated this is a priority that we have let go on long enough and it is time for him to get involved. Councilman Smith stated we need to take this burden away from our employees and our citizens.

City Manager Scherer stated the LGC is usually good about answering us. He stated he has received contact information on three different marketing firms that Cathy Scott has recommended. He stated once we are able to move forward, we will contact them.

Councilman Smith asked if any local real estate agencies were interested.

City Manager Scherer stated Ellen Heaton has experience with commercial real estate.

Councilman Smith asked how soon this could be done.

City Manager Scherer stated we can put the Theatre on the market as soon as we get the needed permission from the LGC.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated he would like to see us appoint a small committee to look at our options. He stated he realizes we have some things on go but we need to look at what we would do if we cannot sell it and what it would cost if we do not get the full value. He stated he would like for the City Manager and Finance Director to put together some numbers for us. Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated each Council member could appoint two people--people in finance and from the general public.

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Councilman Smith stated he does not have a problem with a committee but a committee has to meet and then come back to Council with recommendations.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated it could be a working committee. He stated we would set the times they meet. He stated they could meet every week.

Councilman Smith stated he understands what Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee is talking about but he is not sure a committee is the way to go. He asked why the Council cannot make the decision without a committee. He stated we have two people--John and Larry--that are very knowledgeable about the Theatre.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated we need a committee and input from the people that will pay for it.

Mayor Doughtie asked if we could come up with a compromise on setting up some type of working committee.

City Manager Scherer stated yes but he would like some guidelines on setting up the committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee suggested again that each Council member select two people and we could set a time frame for the committee.

City Attorney Chichester stated he understands the urgency that Councilman Smith is putting forth. He stated the Theatre has been and until it is sold will continue to be an albatross around the City’s neck. He stated he wants to clarify that with property of this nature, the City cannot say it will sell the property and that will be the end of it. He explained that Bank of America holds the Deed of Trust. He stated the Council needs to understand that the State by way of the LGC has a say-so in it also. He explained further what he and City Manager Scherer have done up to this point. He stated they have met with Bank of America--and that time has not been wasted--and they have also met with our financial advisors Davenport & Company. He stated we need to go back to the State and then meet again with Bank of America. City Attorney Chichester stated those things need to be done. He stated property of this nature has to be marketed and bid by someone that wants to buy it. He stated Bank of America has given their commitment that they will release the Theatre for whatever amount we can sell it for. He pointed out that this is a huge commitment for them to make. He stated what we think the LGC is saying is that they want this commitment in writing from Bank of America. City Attorney Chichester stated before we can sell the Theatre we have to have both on board and their blessings.

City Attorney Chichester stated the City has tried in the past to operate the Theatre and it was unsuccessful. He stated the Theatre was never put out there to make money. He stated with a $20 million plus debt, it

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would not make a profit if you tried until the cows come home. He stated the City will continue to own the Theatre until it gets a buyer that can service the debt and make a profit. He stated once the LGC and Bank of America grant permission, the City Manager can contact a marketing firm. City Attorney Chichester stated it is a matter of what the Theatre can be sold for. He stated if the City believes it can be sold for a certain amount that is not realistic, then it will continue to own the Theatre.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated he knows that we will not be able to sell the Theatre for what we have in it but he is concerned about what we do with the debt that is left if it is sold.

City Attorney Chichester stated that is part of what he and the City Manager have been meeting with Davenport & Company about. He stated they are putting together scenarios.

Councilman Smith stated he has worked in the finance field most of his life and sometimes people have to take a loss. He stated we will have to take a loss but it is better to get the Theatre in the hands of someone else. He stated we do not need to continue to send our employees out to the Theatre to work. He stated it is taking away from their other duties. Councilman Smith stated we are spending $2 million plus every year out of the budget to have the Theatre sitting out there. He stated this issue has been before three or four City Councils and numerous closed session meetings have been held. He stated he is tired of closed session meetings and wants the people of Roanoke Rapids to know what we plan to do about the Theatre. Councilman Smith stated if we could cut the payment down to $1 million or even $900,000, we could budget money for our employees to do their jobs. He stated it is very irritating to him when we tell our employees that they will have good benefits and money to do their jobs.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated he is not totally in agreement with that. He stated he wants to know up-front where we are heading and it sounds like we already know that. He stated he was not fully aware of everything that was being done. He stated he realizes that we will not sell the Theatre for what is left.

City Manager Scherer stated that is part of the proposal we are discussing with Bank of America.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked the City Manager to please present this information to Council.

Councilman Bobbitt stated he understands that Davenport is coming up with solutions to present to Bank of America and the LGC.

City Attorney Chichester stated that is correct. He stated they have put together different proposals which the City Manager picked up from his office. He stated we cannot send the proposals by email because they are confidential. He stated we are trying to determine which proposal is best to sell to Bank of America. He

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stated we have not had an opportunity to brief Council in closed session. He stated he knows that Councilman Smith is tired of closed sessions but this matter would have to be discussed in closed session. He stated it is an extremely complicated financial arrangement. City Attorney Chichester assured the Council that he and the City Manager have not been dragging their feet.

Councilman Bobbitt asked if the next step is Bank of America or the LGC.

City Attorney Chichester stated we need the blessings of the LGC. He also pointed out that the Mayor has been involved in these meetings.

Councilman Bobbitt asked City Attorney Chichester if he thought we would know something in the next 60 to 90 days.

City Attorney Chichester stated we should know something way before 90 days.

City Manager Scherer stated hopefully within the next two weeks, we can get in front of the LGC. He stated once we receive approval from the LGC we can move forward.

Councilman Bobbitt asked if people would be able to rent the Theatre if they paid the fee.

City Manager Scherer stated he initially spoke with a gentleman out of Washington, DC that wanted to put on shows and pay us the rental fee but he has changed his mind. He stated this gentleman now wants to find the talent and have us put on the shows. City Manager Scherer stated he does not want the City in the theatre business. He stated he will be meeting with Public Works Director Chalker and Parks & Recreation Director Simeon again on Thursday morning to discuss our options. He stated they have received some calls from people about renting the Theatre. City Manager Scherer pointed out that Public Works Director Chalker has put the technology in place to have the Theatre phone line ring at the Public Works Department when no one is out there.

Councilman Smith stated he knows the City is doing everything it can and he trusts City Attorney Chichester. He stated he knows everyone is working hard but he is a little impatient. He stated he has been listening to this for six years and feels it is time for City Council to get motivated to get something done. Councilman Smith stated he appreciates the information.

City Attorney Chichester stated the ultimate objective is to market the Theatre and get it in private hands. He stated although we have not briefed Council on our progress, we have made substantial strides.

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Councilman Smith stated he hopes when everything gets settled, we will listen to the City Attorney and take his advice.

Councilman Bobbitt stated it is frustrating when we do not know what is going on. He stated the Council members are getting a lot of questions. He stated please throw us a bone.

City Manager Scherer stated all of this came down just a few weeks ago.

Councilman Smith asked if the City Council needs to hire a part-time person to go to the Recreation Department or Public Works Department so someone from one of the departments can work out at the Theatre.

City Manager Scherer stated they will discuss that matter on Thursday. He stated we may have to come back to Council for additional funding.

Councilman Smith asked if they will set prices for rental so staff will know what to tell people when they call.

City Manager Scherer stated yes.

Councilman Smith asked if someone called John or Larry about rental, would they know what to tell them.

City Manager Scherer stated we are just taking the information now and will discuss this on Thursday.

Councilman Smith stated it is frustrating because we knew in advance that HSV was leaving and now we are in the middle of June and do not have information on prices. He stated he feels like he is letting the employees down because we have not pushed hard enough. He stated when people call for information about renting the Theatre, our employees cannot answer a simple question.

City Manager Scherer stated as of last week, we thought the gentleman from Washington, DC would be handling this.

Councilwoman Cowen stated she would not be in favor of hiring someone. She stated both John and Larry have been working very hard. She stated she would be in favor of giving them extra compensation or extra time off rather than hire someone that does not know what is going on.

City Manager Scherer stated one person they were considering was someone that Larry has worked with at the Theatre on many events and is very knowledgeable.

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Councilwoman Cowen stated John and Larry still deserve money for what they have done.

City Manager Scherer briefed Council on a NCLM meeting he attended on Monday in Greenville entitled *“A Path Forward: Vibrant Cities Today and Tomorrow”*. He stated the presentation looked at the history of municipal finance and where cities and towns stand today following recent legislative changes affecting growth and revenues, as well as a panel discussion with municipal officials and others discussing their views on the pressures of property tax rates and municipal services.

City Manager Scherer also briefed Council on two bills in the legislature: House Bill 148 “Insurance Required for Mopeds” and House Bill 117 “NC Competes Act” (sales tax redistribution).

City Manager Scherer reminded Council of the Chamber’s Small Business Awards luncheon on Thursday.

Finance Director Etheridge reported that during the month of May, the Finance Department issued 55 purchase orders and wrote 75 payroll checks, 297 direct deposit vouchers and 267 accounts payable checks. She referred to the operating statement included in her written report which shows the results of operations for the current fiscal year.

Finance Director Etheridge pointed out that two key revenues are under the estimated budgeted amount: *sales tax* and *utility franchise tax*.

Finance Director Etheridge reported that the General Fund year to date receipts totaled $13,933,965.12. The percentage of actual monies collected of adopted budgeted figures stands at 86.2%. She reported that the General Fund year to date expenditures totaled $14,259,625.60. The percentage of actual monies expended of adopted budget figures stands at 88.0%. She stated the year to date expenditures exceeded revenues by ($325,660.48).

Finance Director Etheridge reported that the monthly cost associated with the 2007 Series Bonds totaled $61,023.87. (Breakdown - $60,878.87 swap payment and $145.00 wire fee.)

Finance Director Etheridge reported that the sales and use tax receipts for the month of May totaled $168,581.88. She stated our adopted budget for this category is $2,091,541.00 and the percentage of money collected of adopted budgeted figures stands at 76.6% (11% increase compared to July 2013 - May 2014).

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Finance Director Etheridge reported that the annual allocation was received for beer and wine taxes in the amount of $74,130.34.

Finance Director Etheridge reported that the quarterly cable franchise tax was received in the amount of $9,246.71.

Finance Director Etheridge reported on the following cash and investment positions:

 **CASH & INVESTMENTS** **31-May-15**

 Cash on Deposit First Citizens General Fund $ 712,044.94

 Cash on Deposit First Citizens RR Theatre $ 73,037.41

 Investments NCCMT General Fund $4,686,039.29

 Investments NCCMT Debt Service Reserve $1,979,077.98

 **Total $7,450,199.62**

Councilman Smith asked if it looks like we will break even.

Finance Director Etheridge stated it is too early to tell. She stated one of the things that will help is going from a “light spending” freeze to a “no spending” freeze--unless there is a major emergency.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked about the projections if we continue as we are. He asked if we would break even or have a loss.

Finance Director Etheridge stated she would like to take a harder look at that and get back with Council.

Mayor Doughtie asked if that was something that could be sent out to Council.

Finance Director Etheridge stated yes.

Councilman Smith stated due to the late hour and the fact that most Council members have read the departmental reports included in their agenda packets, he would suggest that we skip the presentation of the reports tonight.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to dispense with the departmental reports.

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

 

 7/21/2015