



Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 5:15 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

Present: Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor
Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem
Ernest C. Bobbitt)
Carol H. Cowen)
Suetta S. Scarbrough)
Wayne Smith)

Council Members

Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager
Gilbert Chichester, City Attorney
Traci Storey, 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
Stacy Coggins, Fire Chief
Christina Caudle, Main Street Director
John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director

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

Adoption of Business Agenda

Mayor Doughtie asked Council members about any known conflicts of interest with respect to the matters before them this evening.

There being no conflicts, motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for March 6, 2018 as presented.

Special Recognitions

Fire Department New Hires & Promotions Ceremony

Fire Chief Coggins held a New Hire and Promotions Ceremony including the pinning of the following individuals:

- ❖ Mr. Patrick Pegram hired as Firefighter
- ❖ Mr. Will Harris hired as Firefighter
- ❖ Mr. Ben Sloan hired as Firefighter
- ❖ Mr. Austin Jarrett hired as Firefighter

- ❖ Mr. Johnathan Woodall promoted from Firefighter to Engineer
- ❖ Mr. Carter Rowland promoted from Firefighter to Engineer

Public Comment (Scheduled)

Caleb Eller

Mr. Eller introduced himself as the new Peanut Belt RPO Transportation Coordinator. He made a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization and upcoming projects in Roanoke Rapids.

Approval of Council Minutes

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to approve the February 20, 2018 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scherer stated they are beginning work on next year's budget and a proposed budget calendar has been provided to you. It is similar to the schedule used last year. Ms. Etheridge is working on developing revenue projections, but I am not anticipating any increase in revenues from the current year's budget.

He said the Fire Department continues to use the old Manning Elementary school building for some excellent training. The department is scheduled to begin hydrant testing next Monday, the 12th and should be done by the end of May.

City Manager Scherer said Kathy Kearney put together a retirement planning conference last week with officials from the state retirement system. It was for any local or state employee who wanted to learn more about their retirement system or issues to consider if they're planning on retiring soon. It was well received and attended by employees from several nearby counties and Wilson. This is the only meeting of this kind that has been held in the region and she is planning to make this an annual event.

He announced Ms. Kearney, as the BARC (Benevolent Awards and Recognition Committee) Committee Chair, would like to notify everyone their group is planning a fish fry event on Friday, April 13th to help raise money for their scholarship program. It will be at Builders First Choice/Pro Build from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with plates going for \$8.

He reported Ms. Caudle and Ms. Lasky are working with Lori Medlin and the Tourism Bureau to develop attractive wayfinding signage for attractions and major points of interest around the City. They have drafted a preliminary design for them and are compiling an initial list of locations. We estimate it will take 2-3 years to fund all the signage needed, to include an electronic welcoming sign at the Exit 173 interchange. We hope to bring the final design to the next meeting for your review and approval.

City Manager Scherer said Mr. Simeon has announced the City will be hosting the state boys' U10 and U12 baseball tournament at Ledgerwood Field from June 28 – July 1st. He also anticipates we will host the girls' youth softball district tournament there the week after. These tournaments will help the City economically with hotels, eating establishments and shopping income derived from the families. Next year, the City will host the Southeast Regional U12 Tournament, which includes teams from Tennessee, Florida and the Bahamas.

He said the Easter Egg Hunts are scheduled for Saturday, March 24th at TJ Davis at 9:00 a.m. and Chaloner Recreation Center at 10:00 a.m., followed by carnival activities.

He informed Council that the Aquatic Center remains without heat for the pool due to additional parts being needed. We anticipate the repairs will be effected by early next week.

City Manager Scherer stated as part of the minimum housing repair/demolition process, the public hearing for the partially burned house at 103 Love Street is

scheduled for March 21st. Ms. Lasky's department has been busy investigating minimum housing complaints.

He said the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is planning a Non-Violence march on April 7th. The participants will march up 12th Street to Roanoke Avenue and end at Centennial Park.

He stated the 2018 North Carolina Severe Weather Preparedness Week runs from Sunday, March 4th through Saturday, March 10th, 2018. With the peak of North Carolina's severe weather season right around the corner, now is the time to prepare. There will be a Statewide Tornado Drill tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. for those schools and businesses that wish to participate.

City Manager Scherer reported at the City's request, NCDOT has installed two new pedestrian crossing signs at the intersection of Roanoke Avenue and 10th Street, for those who have trouble seeing the traffic lights to determine if it's safe to cross.

Other Business

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to go into Closed Session to consult with the attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

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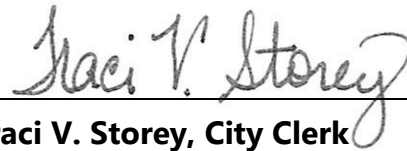
Minute Book Pages 18987 - 18991 contain Minutes and General Account of a Closed Session which have been sealed until such time as public inspection of those minutes would not frustrate the purpose of the Closed Session.

Open Session

City Council returned to Open Session and Mayor Doughtie called the meeting back to order.

City Council consulted with the City Attorney in closed session. No action was taken.

There being no further business, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Traci V. Storey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Approved by Council Action on: March 20, 2018