



# **Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, April 2, 2019 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)  
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  
Bobby Martin, Interim Police Chief  
Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director  
John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director  
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director  
Jason Patrick, Fire Chief  
Christina Caudle, Main Street Director

**Absent:** Carol H. Cowen, Council Member

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

## **Adoption of Business Agenda**

Mayor Doughtie said Item 3 e) needed to be removed from the meeting agenda because Mr. Rivers could not attend and asked Council members if there were any known conflicts of interest with respect to the matters before them this evening.

There being no conflicts, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for April 2, 2019 with Item 3 e) removed.

## Special Recognitions

### **Memorial Resolution – Lloyd Andrews**

Mayor Doughtie read and presented the following Memorial Resolution for former Mayor Lloyd Andrews to his daughter Susan A. Doughtie and her husband Mike:

#### **Memorial Resolution J. Lloyd Andrews**

*WHEREAS, the citizens of Roanoke Rapids were saddened by the recent death of former Mayor J. Lloyd Andrews, who passed away on March 9, 2019 at the age of 90; and*

*WHEREAS, Lloyd Andrews was a graduate of Roanoke Rapids High School and served in the Army National Guard from 1951 to 1954; and*

*WHEREAS, Lloyd Andrews retired from Dominion Energy, formerly known as VEPCO, in 1988 where he worked most of his adult life in various positions in which he had a major role in acquiring the land to be flooded now known as Lake Gaston; and*

*WHEREAS, Lloyd Andrews served on the Roanoke Rapids City Council and as Mayor for thirty years where he was first elected in 1963 thus setting the record for the longest period of service since Roanoke Rapids was founded in 1897; and*

*WHEREAS, Lloyd Andrews was appointed Mayor Pro Tem from 1968 to 1983 and elected Mayor in 1983 until 1993 when he chose to not run for re-election; and*

*WHEREAS, Lloyd Andrews while serving as Mayor and a member of City Council, and in cooperation with his fellow Council members was instrumental in upgrading the pay and benefits for the City employees, the relocation of City Hall, establishing the Jo Story Senior Center and the construction of the Kirkwood Adams Community Center, the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall and the Aquatic Center; and*

*WHEREAS, Lloyd Andrews will forever be known as a hard-working, good and faithful servant to the community thus making a significant and lasting impact on the City of Roanoke Rapids.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids, to hereby express their appreciation for the life and service of **J. Lloyd Andrews** and their heartfelt sympathy to the family so they may know of the tremendous high regard in which former Mayor J. Lloyd Andrews was held by this body.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be presented to his family and to the local news media.*

*THIS the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2019.*

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Traci V. Storey, City Clerk*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor*

**Memorial Resolution – Drewery Beale**

Mayor Doughtie read the following Memorial Resolution for former Police Chief and Mayor Drewery Beale:

**Memorial Resolution**  
***Drewery N. Beale***

*WHEREAS, the citizens of Roanoke Rapids were saddened by the recent death of former Police Chief and Mayor Drewery N. Beale on February 17, 2019; and*

*WHEREAS, Drewery Beale was born in Roanoke Rapids where he grew up in the mill village and attended Roanoke Rapids High School; and*

*WHEREAS, Drewery Beale served in the United States Air Force from 1954 to 1958 and then immediately went to work at the Roanoke Rapids Police Department where he stayed for 38 years; becoming Police Chief in 1968 at the age of 32; and*

*WHEREAS, Drewery Beale attended the FBI Academy and graduated in 1972; and*

*WHEREAS, Drewery Beale was appointed in January, 1998 to fill an unexpired term as a City Councilman, was re-elected in 1999 and served as Councilman until he was sworn in as Mayor on September 24, 2002 for two terms; and*

*WHEREAS, Drewery Beale showed his love for this City not only through his service with the Police Department and various boards and committees but through his tireless efforts to make Roanoke Rapids the thriving community it was before the textile mills closed – with special emphasis on the revitalization of the numerous mill houses in the City; and*

*WHEREAS, the Roanoke Rapids City Council mourns the loss of Drewery Beale and extends to his wife, Gail, and his family our sincere sympathy; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids, to hereby recognize and honor the life and lasting contributions of **Drewery N. Beale** and expresses their appreciation for his leadership, his unselfish and dedicated devotion, and his significant impact on Roanoke Rapids.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be presented to his family and to the local news media.*

*THIS the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2019.*

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Traci V. Storey, City Clerk*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor*

### **Police Department**

Interim Police Chief Martin recognized members of “A” squad - **Lt. Bruce Norton, Sgt. Mike Moseley, Master Officer Ryan Cross, Officers Scott Blythe, Joe DeSare** and **John Wind** for their great work and dedication. On February 23, 2019 a robbery occurred at CVS at 8:16 p.m. and the suspect was apprehended at 8:29 p.m. He said it takes team work, dedication and knowing your city. Once the robbery took place, they knew where they were and Sgt. Moseley went to an area around Long Circle anticipating the path the suspect may take. It wasn’t long before he was on the radio saying he had somebody that fit the description. When he got out to talk to the individual, they ran and not far from them was Officer DeSare so both the officers together were able to apprehend the suspect. This comes from radio communication because Officer Cross and Officer Wind responded to CVS and got the description out as well as the coordination of their supervisor Lt. Norton. He said the following night there was a home invasion and someone was shot at. Within the next hour, “A” squad solved both of those crimes because of the same dedication - setting up a perimeter and knowing where the suspects were going. He presented them with Certificates of Commendation.

Interim Police Chief Martin recognized **Officer Curtis Batchelor**. He said this was to show everyone what type of officers we have working in the City of Roanoke Rapids. On February 26, 2019, Officer Batchelor was off duty and traveling down I-95. As a lot of officers do, we often do things outside of our daily routine at work. Officer Batchelor came across a wreck on I-95 and without thinking he gets out of his vehicle and realizes people are trapped inside the vehicle. He and another individual, Mr. Chris Frisbee, rescued two individuals out of the front of the car where they were trapped. As soon as they got the individuals out of the car, the car enveloped into flames so they essentially saved their lives. Without his dedication, common courtesy and just caring for the fellow human being, those individuals may not be here. He presented Officer Batchelor with a Certificate of Heroism and Life Saving.

Interim Police Chief Martin announced and recognized the following for their recent promotions:

- **Jamie Hardy** promoted to **Sergeant over Narcotics**
- **Joe DeSare** promoted to the **PACE Team**
- **Brandon Council** promoted to the **PACE Team**
- **Obert Wiltsie** (not in attendance) was promoted to **Sergeant over Criminal Investigations**

Interim Police Chief Martin stated each year the Roanoke Rapids Police Department recognizes officers for their outstanding work they have done throughout the year. These officers were dedicated, did absolutely great work and made a difference in the City of Roanoke Rapids. He announced and recognized **Officer Joe DeSare** and **Sergeant Jamie Hardy** as the **2018 Officers of the Year**.

### **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Patrick said last year the department had Deputy Chief Clements and Chief Coggins both retire. Tonight he wanted to announce the new admin staff for the Fire Department. Chief Patrick held a Promotions Ceremony for the following individuals:

- **Wes Hux** promoted to **Deputy Chief** (pinned by his wife Nancy)
- **Richard Cook** promoted to **Assistant Chief of Operations** (pinned by his stepfather Tim Brewer)
- **Kenneth Hollowell** promoted to **Battalion Chief** (pinned by his wife Sonya)
- **Josh Sparks** promoted to **Lieutenant** (pinned by his children Abigail and Jackson)

Chief Patrick also announced the department had two new fire fighters start on Monday and they will be doing some burning in the new training facility next week. He invited Council and citizens to come by to see where they were with the training facility; they will give them a tour.

### **Public Works**

Public Works Director Chalker recognized **Mike Manning, Reggie Barber,** and **Dillon Wallace. Steven Moss** was not able to attend due to an injury earlier in the day.

He said on February 12<sup>th</sup> around 10:30 a.m., Mike Manning heard a fire call go out on the radio for a structure fire at 93 Melody Lane. Even though it is out our city limits, Mike (who is a fireman with Davie Volunteer Fire Department) knew he was close and could possibly make a difference. He quickly called his supervisor and with permission went enroute there. He knew that during the day hours, members for Davie Volunteer Fire Department would be scarce. He was the first to arrive on scene finding heavy smoke coming both from windows and doors. He first made sure everyone was out of the home. Looking in through the back door, he found a bucket and took it to the bathroom tub to fill it with water. Moving up the hallway, he found the stove and the cabinets above it on fire. He knocked down some of the flames and left for his City truck to get the fire extinguisher and re-enter to finish

extinguishing the fire. After this, members of both Davie Volunteer Fire Department and the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department arrived to complete the job.

On Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:48 p.m. in the afternoon, this sanitation crew Reggie Barber, Dillon Wallace and Steven Moss were working their route in South Rosemary on Adams Circle. They noticed smoke coming from apartment 119. Steven and Dillon went inside to check and see if everything was okay. Steven came back out and told their crew leader Reggie that the kitchen was on fire. Reggie instructed them to get everyone out. Steven also told Dillon to grab the fire extinguisher. They re-entered with the fire extinguisher and knocked down the fire. Meanwhile Reggie was dialing 911 during this process. Public Works Director Chalker stated our late President Ronald Reagan on January 20, 1981 said this during his first inaugural address, "Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes, they just don't know where to look." He invited everyone to take a look now. These men didn't blend into the crowd. They chose to be brave and by doing so they made a difference in others' lives.

Main Street Director Caudle thanked the Main Street Board members that were in attendance and asked them to stand. She said they were just a few of the many faces throughout the community that participated in the 1026 Roanoke Avenue green space project. These individuals truly understand that downtown revitalization plays an integral role in community wide economic development efforts. She called all the Public Works employees who were in attendance to come forward. Every year the Main Street Roanoke Rapids Board of Directors has the opportunity to nominate a North Carolina Main Street Champion. This is a prestigious award from the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The purpose is to recognize and celebrate individuals or groups of people for their commitment to downtown improvements and building strong communities across the state of North Carolina. Many people have positively impacted our historic district in 2018 and many years before that, but one group immediately stood out to the board last Fall. That is the City of Roanoke Rapids Public Works Department staff. She said just a few of them were in attendance tonight; in total it was almost 30 members that helped them. She said they stood out for their outstanding efforts and participation in the 1026 Roanoke Avenue Urban Green Space project. On March 14, 2019, the NC Main Street Champions were honored with a breakfast and recognition ceremony at the NC Main Street Conference in Salisbury, NC. Forty-three champions across the State earned honors for their contributions to their Main Street programs and downtown districts in 2018. She said she had a video that they played at the Main Street Conference, but could not get it to work. She said it basically tells a story of how public works is a fantastic program partner and was an integral part of this

green space project. It has been shared on Facebook many times so she will send it out again so everyone can see it.

She said several years ago when 1026 Roanoke Avenue was in disrepair and was a safety violation that was under demolition, the Main Street Board approached the City to ask if they could save this; was there anything they could do. Public Works and their leadership and vision said let's see what we can do. As demolition started and in conjunction with the Planning Department, they were able to save just the upper façade. It may not seem like a lot when a whole building was lost, but it was a lot to them. Then they were fortunate enough to develop a streetscape master plan and Public Works was a part of that. They came to public meetings and shared their ideas. 1026 Roanoke Avenue being developed into a green space was part of that project. They started a Phase I which seemed to be simple and it turned out not to be simple but it was wonderful in the end. From pouring new concrete to make it ADA compliant and stable, to building their first ever water feature throughout the city, the Public Works Department worked hand in hand with Main Street to make this possible. She said it was a very important space not only for uptown but for our community as we continue to rebuild that quality of life. It is very important to the board members and important to our City that this project worked out and it was because of Public Works that it did; she thanked them for that.

She said the key to success of the local Main Street program is its people. The individuals that take extraordinary pride in their downtown revitalization initiatives and the vitality of their community and are willing to go the extra mile for success. She noted the Secretary of the Department of Commerce said that when they announced this Statewide last month. Every single Public Works employee is an exemplary example of what they described. They did make this an extraordinary project; they took pride in it. She saw some of them at 10:00 at night taking pictures of it once they strung the lights. She stated it was a difficult project but they took just as much pride in it as Main Street did.

Main Street Director Caudle said on behalf of the Main Street Roanoke Rapids Board of Directors, she thanked them for a job well done at 1026 Roanoke Avenue and congratulated them for becoming this years' North Carolina Main Street Champion.

Main Street Board Chairman Bill Mueller said he was proud to present the Public Works Department the award from North Carolina Main Street and the Roanoke Rapids Main Street program to them. He said without them, they could not have

done a thing. All the work they have done has been first quality and was done with a big smile and a positive outlook. He thanked them and presented them the Main Street Champion medal.

### **Approval of Council Minutes**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to approve the March 19, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes as drafted.

### **Public Hearing**

#### **Conditional Use Permit Request to Operate a Bar at 310 Roanoke Avenue**

Planning & Development Director Lasky, having been duly sworn by City Clerk Storey, directed City Council of the quasi-judicial public hearing procedures.

Mayor Doughtie opened the public hearing.

Planning & Development Director Lasky gave the following staff report:

#### **Conditional Use Permit Request**

*A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) request from Anthony Floyd (applicant) to operate a private social club with alcohol sales, defined as a bar, at 310 Roanoke Avenue (Halifax County Parcel 0901225). Parcel size is 0.241± acre, located in the B-1, Commercial District. Bars are authorized in the B-1, District with the granting of conditional use permits by City Council after a quasi-judicial hearing. Quasi-judicial hearings are evidentiary hearings.*

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Establishment of a bar is permitted in the B-1, Commercial District, with approval of a Conditional Use Permit from City Council. As such, the applicant is seeking CUP approval to convert a typical storefront location, addressed as 310 Roanoke Avenue, into space for a private social club with alcohol sales for members and guests. This space consists of nearly 1,900 square feet and is one of three (3) storefronts with addresses of 308, 310 and 312 Roanoke Avenue, in a building that was built in 1950 which has provided a home to many retail and office uses over the years. Halifax County records indicate this property is 10,500± square feet in size with a total building size of 6,568 square feet. Apparently, the building occupies this property from the north to the south property line. An unimproved area extends from the rear of the building to an alley that is the rear property line. No improved parking area exists in the area at the rear of the building. There is no requirement for on-site parking in the B-1 Commercial District.

According to Anthony Floyd, the search for a building location is the result of a growth in people coming to his home to throw darts. Over several years the crowd has become more than can be regularly accommodated on his property. Since this group has gotten organized, they have been

traveling to dart throwing competitions up to two hundred miles distant and hope to hold such competitions in Roanoke Rapids. In February 2019 they were provided zoning approval for the use of 310 Roanoke Avenue as provided per the Table of Permitted Uses under category 5.400, social clubs. They have formed a dues paying organization to support this endeavor and would like to have the building open three or four nights a week for the use by members and guests. They hope that having alcohol sales will help support the expenses in operating a building and enhance the social aspect of having a place to go.

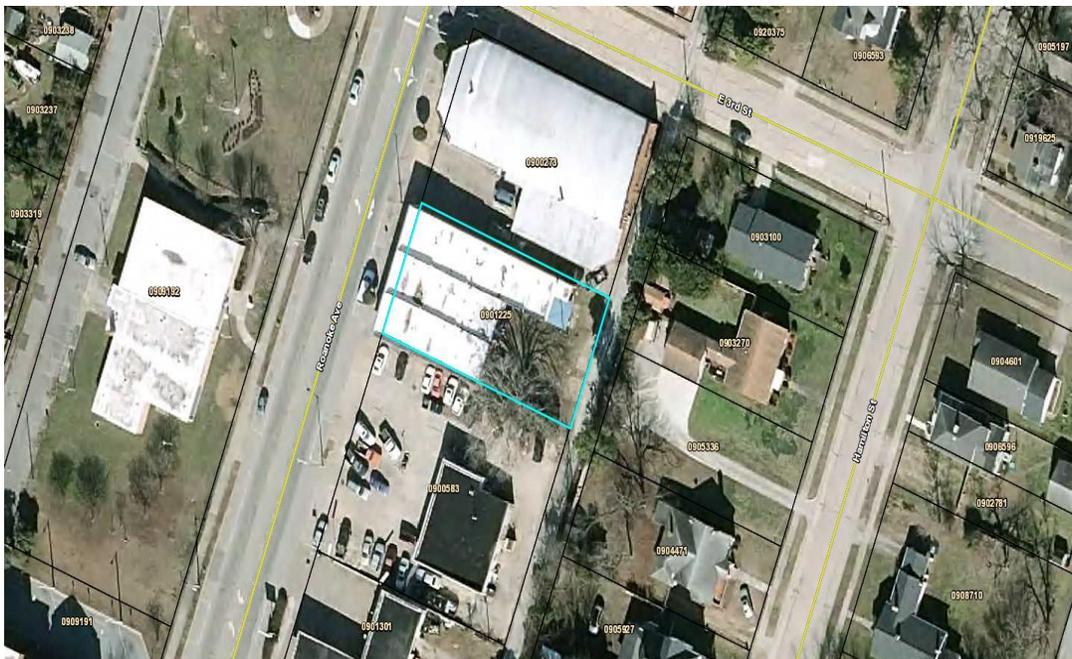
The Land Use Ordinance (LUO) states that the B-1 district is designed, "to accommodate a wide variety of commercial activities (particularly those that are pedestrian oriented) that will result in the most intensive and attractive use of the city's business districts."

The Land Use Ordinance does not provide a definition for a bar except as a listed use of property catalogued within Section 151-149, Table of Permissible Uses, under category 8.000, Restaurants, Bars, Nightclubs. Bars are sub-listed as use category 8.200. This table provides that such uses are permitted by right in the B-4 commercial district along with I-1 and I-2 industrial districts. It also establishes that bars are permitted with Conditional Permit approval in the B-1 commercial district. Many uses requiring Conditional Permits are provided restrictions for such approvals under LUO Article XI; Supplementary Use Regulations, however, this Article does not list or provide restrictions for this specific use.

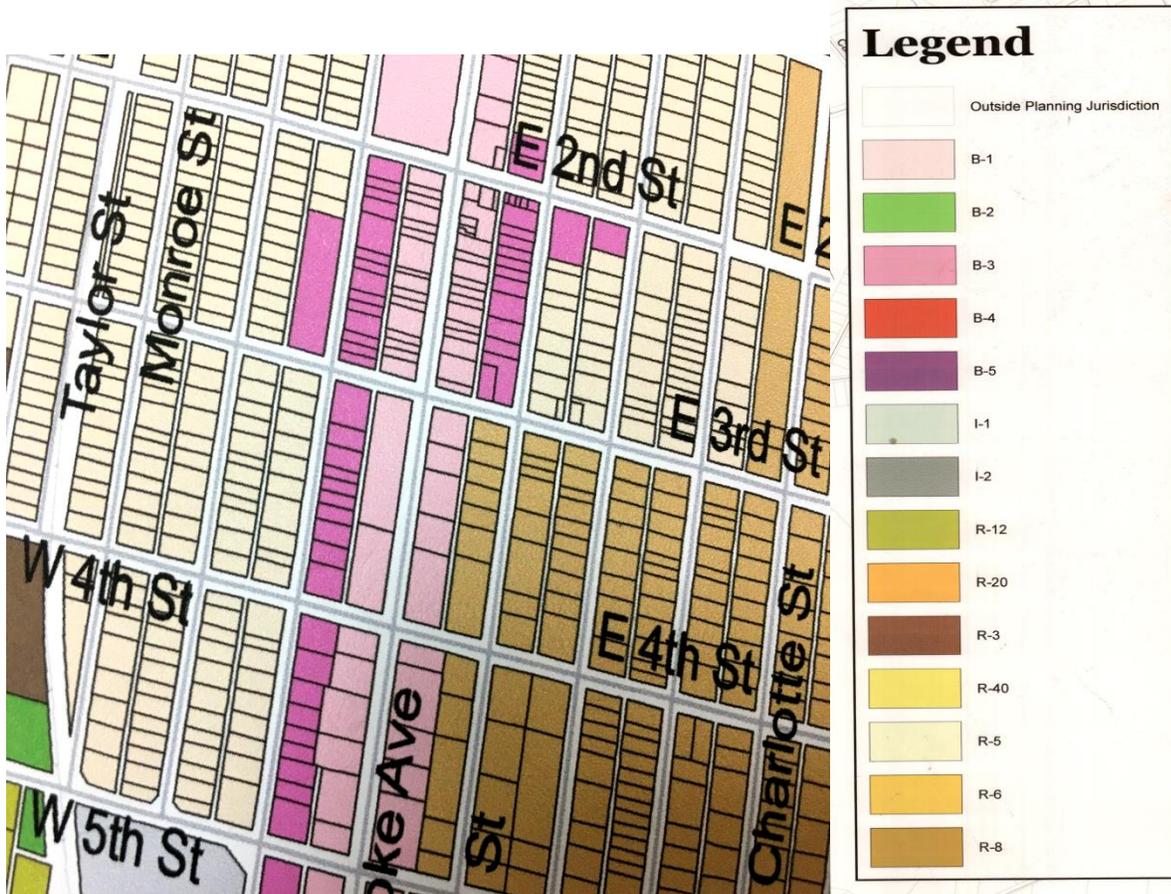
The Land Use Ordinance provides for social organizations in Section 151-149, Table of Permissible Uses, under category 5.000 Educational, Cultural, Religious, Philanthropic, Social & Fraternal Uses. More specifically social clubs are sub-listed as category 5.400, Social fraternal clubs and lodges, union halls, and similar uses. Such uses are permitted by right in the B-1 and B-4 commercial districts and permitted with Conditional Permit approval in B-2 commercial districts.

***(Note: the application and supporting documents are attached to this memorandum)***

**SUBJECT PARCEL VICINITY MAP (Aerial Photo)**



**The subject property is currently zoned B-1, Commercial District, which is designed to accommodate a wide variety of commercial activities (particularly those that are pedestrian oriented) that will result in the most intensive and attractive use of the city's central business districts. Section 151-181 establishes lot minimum widths of 70 feet, but with no minimum lot size. See zoning map excerpt.**



Planning and Development staff has made the following findings concerning this request:

1. The requested permit is within its jurisdiction according to the table of permissible uses;  
or

The requested permit is within Roanoke Rapids Incorporated Limits. Bars are authorized in a B-1, Commercial District, with a Conditional Use Permit. The request is to operate a private social club, which is provided a use classification as 5.400 per LUO Section 151-149, Table of Permissible Uses. The desire to obtain an ABC Permit to sell alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption is deemed to establish this use of this property as that of a bar, therefore, meeting the use classification of 8.200 and requiring a Conditional Use Permit.

2. The application is complete; or

The application is complete.

3. If completed as proposed in the application, the development will comply with all of the requirements of The Land Use Ordinance; or

The development will comply with all of the requirements of the Land Use Ordinance if completed as proposed in the application, with the possible exception of that for on-site parking.

**The following seven (7) items were considered and evaluated as follows:**

- 1: ingress and egress to the lot and proposed structures, especially by pedestrians and automobiles, is safe and convenient in terms of access and traffic flow; and,

Staff finds this to be true. This site has frontage on Roanoke Avenue, Highway 48, an improved State of North Carolina road, with parking and sidewalks on both sides of the street, along with street curb and guttering.

- 2: off-street parking and loading effect on adjacent property (in terms of traffic generation, economic impact, noise, glare and odor) similar to uses permitted in that zoning district; and,

Staff finds little potential for negative impact on neighboring properties. The proposed use of the property is unlikely to cause any traffic generation issues. In particular, nearby uses are generally closed in evenings when Crickets Dart Room would be open.

- 3: refuse disposal effect on adjacent property with similar uses permitted in that zoning district; and,

Staff finds no likely negative effect should occupants utilize common practices in refuse disposal. The City provides refuse collection, and the City of Roanoke Rapids regulations shall apply.

- 4: utilities are available; and,

Staff believes this is true, with connections and extensions coordinated with appropriate entities. The issuance and maintenance of an ABC License requires the meeting of Health Code regulations.

- 5: the type, dimensions and character of screening and buffering satisfactorily screens adjacent property; and,

Staff finds screening to be adequate for a use that has no expected outside activity adjacent to residential development. This parcel of land is zoned B-1 commercial, and based on its construction blends in with adjoining properties and requires no additional screening or buffering.

- 6: signs and lighting affect adjacent property similar to uses permitted in that zoning district; and,

Staff believes that exterior lighting is to be the norm for a similar property.

7: required yards, open space and existing trees and other attractive and natural features of the land are preserved.

Staff believes this is probably true. This lot is currently developed.

Given the preceding, Staff has made the following findings concerning this request:

**If completed as proposed, the development, more probably than not:**

- (a) provide no material endangerment to the public health or safety; or

Staff believes this is probably true. The applicant shall be required to comply with all applicable federal, state and local codes and ordinances. An assessment of the previously referenced seven items used to evaluate areas of concern indicate no specific endangerment to the public health or safety.

- (b) the use will not substantially injure the value of the adjoining or abutting property; or

Staff believes this is probably true. Staff finds no specific reasons for potential negative effects on the value of adjoining or abutting property.

- (c) the use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; or

Staff believes this is probably true. The proposed use will be commercial in nature and in character with the existing surrounding commercial land uses.

- (d) the use will be in general conformity with the Comprehensive Development Plan, Thoroughfare Plan, or other plan officially adopted by the City Council.

Staff finds this to be true. The plans as submitted will agree with the policies of the Comprehensive Development Plan, Thoroughfare Plan as well as the Land Use Ordinance and other officially adopted plans of the City. The Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use map designates this area as suitable for high density commercial. The property is located within existing City Limits and the staff believes it is in conformity with the following Comprehensive Development Plan policies:

**Section 6. Future Land Use**

**Mixed Use – Town Center**

“The Town Center should provide a concentration OF COMMERCIAL, SERVICE, AND RESIDENTIAL USES THAT WILL SERVE ROANOKE Rapids and the region. The district should encourage a mix of high intensity, pedestrian-oriented uses compatibly designed and arranged around the existing compact core. The district is intended to safeguard the unique architectural character, social activity and cultural value of the town Center while promoting its continued success and redevelopment. Vertical mixed use is preferred. There is no minimum lot size.”

THE APPLICANT HAS ADDRESSED THE REQUISITE QUESTIONS, WHICH MUST BE ANSWERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IN HIS APPLICATION. IT IS YOUR OBLIGATION TO ENSURE EACH HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED AFTER HEARING ALL PARTIES PRIOR TO RENDERING YOUR FINAL DECISION.

### **Planning & Development Staff Review**

After a complete review of the information submitted by the applicant, it is the Staff's opinion the request satisfactorily meets some requirements of Sections 151 - 49 and 151- 94 of the Land Use Ordinance. The Staff recommends approval only with consideration of the issue of parking.

Property owners within 100 feet of the subject property were notified of this public meeting by first class mail, sent March 11, 2019.

The recommendation of the Planning Board will be forwarded to City Council to hold a quasi-judicial public hearing, to be followed by a final decision concerning this matter.

### **Testimony**

Anthony Floyd, applicant, having been duly sworn by City Clerk Storey, said he was the one who wanted to start the cricket tournaments. He said it basically started at his house two years ago with eight people. It has now grown from eight to thirty-five members. They are trying to start a dart league. They have people from Raleigh and Fayetteville and Richmond to get in these dart leagues. For them to have an actual professional dart league, they have to have a place of business. The way these dart leagues work is they will travel to Richmond to have a tournament as the name of Crickets out of Roanoke Rapids. If they win the tournament, they will take their trophy back to the location on Roanoke Avenue. Then when it was time to have a tournament again, they would come here to Roanoke Avenue to win the Richmond tournament back and take the Roanoke Rapids trophy back there. That was what they originally set out to do, to start a league. It is all family oriented, it is all friends they grew up with. He knows it is considered a bar but it is a member's only club. It is all about throwing darts, it is not really about a bar to them. The reason they want the alcohol sales was to help pay the bills and when they have tournaments to bring money to the Avenue.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked what would be their hours of operation. Mr. Floyd replied they all work so it would be a Thursday, Friday, Saturday and maybe sometimes on Sunday after 1:00 p.m. (if they have a tournament). It will be after 5:00 p.m. when they are open.

Mayor Doughtie asked if they had an end time. Mr. Floyd said around 12 midnight. If they have a tournament they have around 35 - 40 people and now they have a big enough spot they can run 3-4 boards so that speeds things up. Where it was

taking five hours to throw them at his house, they can throw them in three hours at their business on the Avenue. They have been doing it for the past couple of weeks and it has been ending about 12:00-12:30 a.m.

Councilman Bobbitt asked if they had won any trophies. Mr. Floyd replied he had a trophy, but they were hard to get though.

Mayor Doughtie asked if all the activities would be contained inside the building. Mr. Floyd said yes they would.

Councilman Smith asked if there were a certain number of people the building could hold. Mr. Floyd replied 49 people per fire code. He said the Fire Marshall told him if he changed the back doors where they would open outward, it would go to about 100. He said 49 people was more than enough for them.

Mayor Doughtie asked if the 49 people would be the Roanoke Rapids membership and what about when they would have a tournament. Mr. Floyd said when they would have a tournament it would just be the dart players only so they would have to keep it under 50.

Walter Gray, having been duly sworn by City Clerk Storey, said he had been here for a while and been friends with Tony. He was doing a great job, everything was clean and looks great. He stated if you are not a member, you are not allowed and they will ask you to leave. That was the way it was going to be. People would have to join if they want to come in there and enjoy themselves.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked Mr. Floyd if there was a membership fee. He replied it was \$5 per month and the reason was for the lights and rent.

Planning & Development Director Lasky stated it would be appropriate at this time for City Council to discuss and deliberate and move into considering the four findings of fact. The following work sheet was provided to City Council:

**City Council Quasi-Judicial Forum and Conditional Use Permit Evaluation Work Sheet**

**SECTION I:**

1. The requested permit is within its jurisdiction according to the table of permissible uses; or
2. The application is complete; or

3. **Bars** are a use subject to Conditions in the Land Use Ordinance; or

**SECTION II.** *The following seven (7) items were considered and evaluated as follows:*

ingress and egress to the lot and proposed structures, especially by pedestrians and automobiles, is safe and convenient in terms of access and traffic flow; and,

off-street parking and loading effect on adjacent property (in terms of traffic generation, economic impact, noise, glare and odor) similar to uses permitted in that zoning district; and,

refuse disposal effect on adjacent property with similar uses permitted in that zoning district; and,

utilities are available; and,

the type, dimensions and character of screening and buffering satisfactorily screens adjacent property; and,

signs and lighting affect adjacent property similar to uses permitted in that zoning district; and,

required yards, open space and existing trees and other attractive and natural features of the land are preserved.

**SECTION III** *Please refer to the Public Hearing Testimony, Staff Report and items 1-7 of Section II on previous pages when evaluating the following motions.*

Is it the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit:

**(a) Will not materially endanger the public health or safety; or**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried that based on the public hearing testimony and the foregoing staff report dated March 28, 2019, it is the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit will not materially endanger the public health or safety.

Is it the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit:

**(b) Will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property; or**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried that based on the public hearing testimony and the foregoing staff report dated March 28, 2019, it is the consensus of the City Council

that the requested permit will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property.

Is it the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit:

**(c) Will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; or**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried that based on the public hearing testimony and the foregoing staff report dated March 28, 2019, it is the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located.

Is it the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit:

**(d) Will be in general conformity with the Comprehensive Development Plan, Thoroughfare Plan, or other plan officially adopted by the City Council.**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried that based on the public hearing testimony and the foregoing staff report dated March 28, 2019, it is the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit will be in general conformity with the Comprehensive Development Plan, Thoroughfare Plan, or other plan officially adopted by the City Council.

#### **SECTION IV FINAL DECISION**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried that based on the public hearing testimony and the foregoing staff report dated March 28, 2019 it is the consensus of the City Council that the requested Conditional Use Permit be granted to Anthony Floyd (Applicant) for a *bar* located at 310 Roanoke Ave with the conditions set forth by the Land Use Ordinance.

Mayor Doughtie declared the public hearing to be closed.

<b>New Business</b>
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#### **Consideration of Contract with Gregory T. Redman, CPA to Conduct Annual Audit for Fiscal Year End June 30, 2019**

Finance Director Etheridge presented City Council the upcoming contract with Gregory T. Redman, CPA and stated in accordance with NCGS 159-34(a), City Council must approve a contract for the audit of the City's financial statements.

She said included in City Council's packets were copies of the engagement letter and contract with Gregory T. Redman, CPA to conduct the audit of the City's financial statements for 2019 for the sum of \$19,900. This was the same contractual amount as prior year. She requested City Council consider a motion to approve the letter of engagement and contract with Gregory T. Redman, CPA.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt to approve the letter of engagement and contract with Gregory T. Redman, CPA to conduct the audit of the City's financial statements for 2019 in the amount of \$19,900 and to authorize the Mayor to execute the engagement letter and contract.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Scherer said they had received recent complaints about speeding on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The Police Department has written several tickets and officers have been assigned to the area for traffic enforcement.

He reported Public Works has had their two dump truck delivered today and will try to expedite getting them licensed for use. In regard to the lighting at Emry Park, Dominion's part is complete. The poles and circuits are up and Public Works will put on their schedule to work on circuits and getting lights installed at and around the shelter. The Public Works Durapatch road repair vehicle continues to make pothole repairs as schedule and weather permits. The emulsion, or sticky solution is water based so the correct amount of it during application is crucial to a good patch, otherwise when it rains the emulsion washes out. The crew is catching on to the process and are getting better at making repairs.

He said the NCDOT/CSX crossing project on Roanoke Avenue at the paper mill is causing some concern. The loaded log trucks and other tractor trailers driving on City streets due to the detour are not designed to handle such heavy loads. There were probably 20 loaded log trucks and other trucks driving on street down by the Canal Museum yesterday. Public Works Director Chalker did a traffic count: the average count was 480/hour and the highest was over 1,000/hour. The Police Department has two officers rotating to handle the traffic at First Street and Roanoke Avenue for the rest of today. Another problem with the traffic congestion is they are paving the bridge at the same time and it is down to one lane.

City Manager Scherer said recently Public Works discovered the tipping fees at the refuse transfer station in Weldon had increased over 10% with no prior notice from the management company. They have been negotiating with the management

company for a lower price as well as looking at other options for future consideration if fees continue to dramatically increase over time.

He said we have been in touch with a person who is interested in purchasing the Carolina Inn and continuing its use as a chain motel. They are in the process of doing their due diligence on health department regulatory requirements and financial reviews, and we have a meeting with them next week to make them feel welcome, let them know the City is business friendly and offer any assistance we can to help make the project happen.

He reported two buildings in the 1000 block of Roanoke Avenue have been leased. One of them, a tax preparation business, has received its business use permit but the florist shop is still in the process. The florist shop has submitted a sign permit and they would like to open by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

He announced the County Health Department has put together a Rabies/Bat Clinic which will be held Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at Kirkwood Adams Community Center beginning at 6 p.m.

He said the Fire Department has been working to complete their Training Center on Hinson Street. They hope to finish the first floor tomorrow. They plan to conduct burn training in the next week, especially for new fire fighters. Once they complete the second floor of the facility they hope to have a public dedication in May. Also, hydrant testing will begin tomorrow for the next three days and a couple of days next week.

City Manager Scherer said the Iraq-Afghanistan War on Terrorism memorial was installed at Veterans Park last Friday. It will remain covered until its unveiling. Toni Outland is planning to unveil it on the first or second Saturday in May. Site grading at Chaloner Park is going well. The next step will be for the contractor to install drain and water lines for the splash pad. The Roanoke Canal Half Marathon went well this past Saturday. They had 103 registered runners, not including any last minute registrations. They had a runner from Arkansas and others from Maryland, West Virginia, NC, SC and Virginia.

He announced the Parks and Recreation Department will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at TJ Davis Recreation Center beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked if the improvements on Roanoke Avenue at the paper mill was just going to be through tomorrow. Public Works Chalker replied

that plan was for the CSX crossing to be done by tomorrow. They did not do anything with the mill and fill operation today because of the weather so that is obviously going to postpone things. He did not know what that may float out to. They would try to get a better indication tomorrow to how they are doing with the project and will report back to the City Manager. She stated the bridge is being repaved, correct? He said it was being top coated with asphalt and the road between the railroad crossing and the bridge is actually being milled and filled. He added the goal was to get the project finished while the paper mill was in a shut down along with the railroad crossing. It is such a bottle neck there that timing is crucial.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked if we ever found out why we did not get a notice about the increase in the tipping fees and was it unusual to get a 10% increase and are there any alternatives. City Manager Scherer replied the company claims they sent a letter announcing the increase but none of the departments received that letter; they did not realize it until they started charging us more. He said 10% is not a normal increase; for whatever reason they decided to increase it. Public Works Director Chalker was able to go back to them and have the price reduced significantly. It is slightly above what it was, but the department is exploring other options or locations for the City to take our refuse if the company in Weldon continues to increase their prices.

Councilman Smith asked how much was the increase. City Manager Scherer replied it was \$3 a ton; the original increase was almost \$7 a ton.

Mayor Doughtie said before City Manager Scherer came and Public Works Chalker had just come on board for the City, the City was looking strongly into a transfer station and actually looked at a landfill in Lawrenceville, Virginia. City Manager Scherer said those were the two options Public Works Director Chalker was looking into now. He was getting a price proposal from Halifax County as well as what the costs and logistics would be to use the landfill in Lawrenceville, Virginia.

Councilman Smith asked how much damage were the loaded log trucks doing the City streets or was it going to do any damage to them. City Manager Scherer said we do not know specifically, but we just have a concern that that much traffic especially with the heavy vehicles on a City street that was not made for that. Public Works Director Chalker clarified the trucks that have gotten through were enroute to Enviva; the paper mill is not taking any log trucks in this week during the shutdown. City streets are not designed to carry these extremely heavy loads because they do not have the base under the asphalt. He said Interim Police Chief Martin, Main Street Director Caudle, NCDOT and himself have been getting

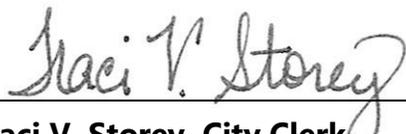
together to coordinate on how to get the trucks routed away from us. Sometimes it is difficult to stop some truck drivers because they want to go the straightest route.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked about the points of detour so they would know not to use their usual path. Public Works Director Chalker said there were four (4) active message boards that NCDOT has reprogrammed twice trying to get the right message to tell trucks not to go any further, to turn here. There are also big orange signs with black writing in the work zone that says "no trucks." He said today the Police Department has put some enforcement down there to write citations or tickets.

### Other Business

Mayor Doughtie said the City received a letter from the NC Association of Student Councils. He said a couple of weeks ago Roanoke Rapids hosted the State Convention for student council people all across North Carolina. They had about 400-500 young adults to attend. They were very mature, well spoken, well dressed and real professional for as young as they were. He said he was impressed. They asked him to come and welcome them. The next day they had people from back as far as 1940-1945 to those who had graduated from Roanoke Rapids in the past few years that had stayed in Roanoke Rapids or who had come back and taken on positions of leadership or given back to the community. The focus was hometown grown and they were trying to emphasize, especially in rural communities like ours, that they did not need to be in a large city to make a big difference in the lives of those they came in contact with. They were encouraging young people to take on leadership roles in their community.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

  
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Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

**Approved by Council Action on: April 16, 2019**