



Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, May 7, 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

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

Adoption of Business Agenda

Mayor Doughtie called Council's attention to Item 7b) – Consideration of Filling Vacant District 2 Council Seat. He said this item was brought forth due to the untimely death of Councilwoman Carol Cowen. It was quite a change to be in a position like this, a good change, to have several individuals from our community to express interest in becoming a member of the Roanoke Rapids City Council. Many citizens have reached out, such as those in attendance tonight to himself, other City Council members and even employees sharing the many viewpoints to how this vacancy should be filled. This Council and the City Administration, like they have done with many other items, have given this matter a lot of important thought and great amount of attention. We work hard to provide the citizens with

the best services and opportunities that they can while keeping the costs as low as possible. With that being said, as the Mayor, he asked that the agenda be adopted with the Item 7b) being removed. The reason being that this Council has decided that the vote of the citizens of District 2 in November should be the ones that should replace the vacancy now left by the passing of Mrs. Cowen. With that being said he called for a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of Item 7b).

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for May 7, 2019 with Item 7b) removed.

Mayor Doughtie recognized the elected officials in attendance: Halifax County Commissioners Chairman, Vernon Bryant and Halifax County Commissioner Linda Brewer. He also acknowledged Lance Martin and stated he was glad he was doing better and was back. Mr. Martin thanked everyone from the City for the prayers and visits especially the firefighters and police that came that day for their upmost professionalism.

Special Recognitions

Sons of the American Revolution Awards for Public Safety

Ken Wilson, Chairman of the Halifax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution stated periodically they present awards to First Responders. They have several awards to give today. The SAR Lifesaving Medal is presented to those individuals that have acted to save a human life without necessarily placing their own life or themselves in imminent danger. The Roanoke Rapids Fire Department Station 1 C-shift responded to a local apartment complex in reference to a 55 year old male with chest pains and difficulty breathing. Upon arrival firefighters began giving CPR along with assisting EMS with further treatment. After roughly 30 minutes of crews performing CPR and EMS administering medication to the patient, regained a pulse. The patient was transported to Halifax Regional Hospital then transferred to another medical facility where he was later discharged with a pacemaker and has since recovered. Today, he would like to recognize Battalion Chief Tim Gray, Engineer Michael Butts, Jr., Firefighter Will Harris and Firefighter Ben Clements. He presented each with the SAR Lifesaving Medal.

Mr. Wilson stated the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. The medal is intended to recognize exceptional service or accomplishment in the field of law enforcement. Eligibility is not limited to peace officers but extends to the

entire range of persons who make and enforce the law to include but not limited to peace officers, attorneys, judges, prosecutors and legislators who have performed an exceptional act or service beyond that normally expected. The medal may be presented to an individual only once. This award today is presented to Lieutenant Bruce Norton. He stated Lt. Norton began his career with the Roanoke Rapids Police Department in April 1995 as a Police Officer II, he was promoted to Master Officer in February 2000, to Sergeant in March 2003 and to Lieutenant in July 2006. He has served the citizens of Roanoke Rapids for the last 24 years honorably, respectfully and selflessly. During his time with the department he has trained many of the officers. His commitment to the department, to law enforcement and to the citizens of this community is to be commended. He was presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

Mr. Wilson said the last award was the SAR Medal of Heroism which recognizes outstanding bravery and self-sacrifice in the face of imminent danger such as acts which involve great personal risk and courage to the recipient. It is intended primarily for acts of civilians' not in uniform but does not exclude police, fire and SAR members. Today, they would like to recognize Officer Curtis Batchelor. Officer Batchelor was off duty on February 26th and was headed back to Roanoke Rapids when he happened upon a wreck near mile marker 140 approaching the Dortches exit. According to an article in the *Rocky Mount Telegram* there were four injured in the crash on I-95 northbound. The vehicle allegedly hit a tractor trailer after running off the road to the right of the tractor trailer, which was traveling in the left lane. The vehicle over corrected and hit the tractor trailer and crashed in a wooded area. This is where Officer Curtis Batchelor and others sprang into action trying to help the family in the crash. Officer Batchelor and Chris Frisbee of Greenville were able to get the two front passengers out of the vehicle before it was consumed by flames. The heroic actions of these two and others helped emergency responders get the victims to hospitals to care for injuries sustained in the crash. Officer Batchelor has maintained contact with the driver's mother to monitor how the victims of the wreck are recovering. The Roanoke Rapids Police Department is proud of the actions of Officer Curtis Batchelor and the others that stopped to render aid to this family. The actions of Officer Batchelor are to be commended and shared with the community he protects and serves. This is a great example of what officers do even when they are off duty and happen upon accidents or other events that they can assist in, they don't think of themselves, they are thinking of the victims involved and want to help anyway they can. He was presented the SAR Medal of Heroism.

Approval of Council Minutes

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to approve the April 16, 2019 Regular Council Meeting minutes as drafted.

Committee Appointments

Library Advisory Committee

City Clerk Storey reported the terms of Marci Merritt, Janet Moore and Alice Newsome on the Library Advisory Committee will expire on May 23, 2019. Ms. Merritt and Ms. Newsome have served the maximum number of two consecutive terms allowed by City policy. Council has the authority, and has done so in the past, to waive this section of the policy.

She announced City Council took a ballot vote earlier and all three candidates received a unanimous vote to be reappointed.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to waive the City Policy for Ms. Merritt and Ms. Newsome and reappoint Marci Merritt, Janet Moore and Alice Newsome to the Library Advisory Committee.

New Business

Consideration of Resolution Designating the First Saturday in March as Child Abuse Awareness Day

Mayor Doughtie asked for Elijah Lee to come forward to receive a resolution from the City of Roanoke Rapids and then read the following:

**RESOLUTION
PROCLAIMING THE FIRST SATURDAY IN MARCH AS
Child Abuse Awareness Day
IN THE CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC**

WHEREAS, Elijah Lee, a student at KIPP Gaston College Preparatory, is an advocate and voice for children experiencing child abuse by bringing child abuse awareness to light in the City of Roanoke Rapids and the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, Elijah Lee began organizing an annual Child Abuse Awareness March in 2018 slated for the first Saturday in March at Centennial Park, Roanoke Rapids, NC; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development; and

WHEREAS, trauma during childhood affects a person for the rest of their life and these affects can be mentally, physically and emotionally harmful; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human services agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, Elijah Lee believes “when one of us falls, we all fall and when one of us rises, we all rise”; and

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Rapids City Council would like to pay tribute to Elijah Lee for his inspiration, his strong spirit, and for teaching us that we all have to take a stand to help protect our children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roanoke Rapids City Council proclaims the first Saturday in March as

Child Abuse Awareness Day

throughout the City of Roanoke Rapids and encourages the entire community to help support this cause by working together to prevent child abuse.

ADOPTED this 7th day of May 2019.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Mayor Doughtie and Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee presented the framed resolution to Mr. Lee.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019.04 Designating the First Saturday in March as Child Abuse Awareness Day.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee said this young man has been instrumental in the city and has been instrumental in making child abuse awareness throughout the

community. He said for someone as old as I am to admire this young man is wonderful and he will do great things, he may even be our next president. He stated we have so many young men in our community doing so many great things and recognized Kaileb Harrison and presented him with a City lapel pin. He said both of these young men were wonderful and it was great to see such young men doing great things in the community.

Elijah Lee thanked City Council and the City of Roanoke Rapids for supporting him every step of the way. He remembered an old African proverb that said “it takes a village to raise a child” and he was very happy to know that he was from a community that is ready to be that village that raises their children. He quoted the great Fredrick Douglass who once said “it is easier to build stronger children than it is to repair broken men.” He was very proud to say he was from a city that has built strong children. He was from a city that has a baseline that is so great that a child could come up from it and become something truly amazing. He said he usually talks about the short term effects of child abuse, but today he wanted to talk about the long term effects. Most of the people that come from child abuse or domestic violence homes will most likely end up with a drug or alcohol addiction, mental health issues, in prison, depression, trauma, fear or ultimately suicide. He said he was so honored and excited to receive this recognition, but this recognition is not just to celebrate a kid that had a march. It is to celebrate and to send a message to kids everywhere that they have a voice in their community. He has a voice in his community and we all have a voice in our community. It is time for us to take on this leadership and be the voice in our community that stands up for what we believe in. Because we were all given the right to freedom of speech and right of thought so let’s use our speech and use that thought and say what we speak. He thanked everyone again for their support and attending the marches.

Consideration of Supplemental Order Amending the Bond Order for Series 2017B Bond

Finance Director Etheridge presented the following supplemental order to amend the 2017B bond order for the purpose of lowering the interest rate on these bonds, effective immediately. She said presently, this bond is entering its termed out period. Both the Local Government Commission and our bond council are in agreement with this modification of the bond document for loan 2017B which will save the City approximately \$18,000 in interest payments over the next three months.

**SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER AMENDING THE BOND ORDER OF THE CITY
ADOPTED APRIL 18, 2017 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT REFUNDING BONDS BY THE CITY**

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2017 the City Council (the “City Council”) of the City of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina (the “City”), pursuant to the North Carolina Project Development Financing Act, Article 6 of Chapter 159 of the North Carolina General Statutes, as amended, adopted a bond order (the “Bond Order”) providing, among other things, for the issuance of Special Revenue Refunding Bonds of the City for the purposes described therein;

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2017 the City issued its Music and Entertainment District Special Revenue Bond, Series 2017A (Tax-Exempt Interest) (the “Series 2017A Bond”) and its Music and Entertainment District Special Revenue Bond, Series 2017B (Taxable Interest) (the “Series 2017B Bond”) pursuant to the Bond Order;

WHEREAS, Section 202 of the Bond Order provides that during the Series 2017B Maturity Extension Period (as defined in the Bond Order) the Series 2017B Bond shall bear interest at the lesser of (1) the Bank Prime Rate and (2) 12%;

WHEREAS, the City and Bank of America, N.A. the sole Holder of the Series 2017A Bond and Series 2017B Bond, desire to amend the definition of “Bank Prime Rate” in Section 101 of the Bond Order as hereinafter provided;

WHEREAS, Section 901 of the Bond Order provides that the Holder of the Bonds and the City have the right to consent to and approve the adoption of such order or orders supplemental to the Bond Order as are deemed necessary or desirable by the City for the purpose of modifying, altering, amending, adding to or rescinding, in any particular, any of the terms or provisions contained in the Bond Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the City Council that the Bond Order is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. The definition of “Bank Prime Rate” in Section 101 of the Bond Order is hereby amended to read as follows”

“Bank Prime Rate” means, as of each date of determination, the lesser of (i) the rate of interest per annum publicly announced from time to time by the Bank as its “prime rate,” as such rate may change from time to time, and (ii) the LIBOR Daily Floating Rate, plus eighty one-hundredths of 1% (.80%).

Section 2. Section 101 of the Bond Order is hereby amended to insert the following new definition of “LIBOR Daily Floating Rate”:

“LIBOR Daily Floating Rate” means, for any date, the rate per annum equal to the London Interbank Offered Rate, or a comparable or successor rate which rate is approved by Bank of America, N.A., as published by Bloomberg (or such other commercially available source providing such quotations of such rate as may be designated by Bank of America, N.A. from time to time) at or about 11:00 a.m. London time two (2) London Banking Days prior to such date for U.S. Dollar deposits with a term of one month commencing that day; provided that (i) to the extent a comparable or successor rate is approved by Bank of America, N.A. in connection herewith, the approved rate shall be applied in a manner consistent with market practice; provided, further that to the extent such market practice is not administratively

feasible for Bank of America, N.A., such approved rate shall be applied in a manner as otherwise reasonably determined by Bank of America, N.A. If LIBOR shall be less than zero, such rate shall be deemed zero for purposes of this Agreement.

Section 3. Whether the Bank Prime Rate is the rate per annum determined under (i) or (ii) of the definition thereof as set forth above, at no time shall the interest rate on the Series 2017B Bond exceed 12%.

Section 4. Consent to this amendment having been previously provided to the City by Bank of America, N.A. as Holder of the Series 2017A Bond and Series 2017B Bond, this amendment to the Bond Order shall become effective upon its adoption by the City Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of May, 2019.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to approve the Supplemental Order Amending the Bond Order "Series 2017B Bond" from May 10, 2017.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scherer announced the legislative "crossover" is right ahead – May 9, as currently scheduled, when most bills need to have passed either the House or Senate to remain eligible.

He highlighted the HB 966 2019 Appropriations Act, which was expected to receive the second of two required floor votes on Friday after preliminary approval Thursday. The plan, in its current form, include numerous provision for local governments and many that address the advocacy goals of cities and towns -- increased Powell Bill money, infrastructure support, efforts against opioid misuse, online sales –tax clarity and much more.

- Includes a mechanism to increase local sales tax revenues by ensuring the local sales tax applies to all online sales and is collected by the seller;
- Extends the historic rehabilitation tax credit by four years to January 1, 2024;

- Provides a non-recurring \$20 million to the Workforce Housing Loan Program to assist with the development of multi-family affordable housing units across the state;
- Allocates a non-recurring \$5 million in each year of the biennium to boost substance-use treatment and recovery options and help to reduce opioid misuse;
- Marks more than \$48 million in Community Development Block Grant funds, with portions reserved for neighborhood revitalization, economic development and infrastructure;
- Packages funds for water and wastewater needs;
- And appropriates an additional \$14.75 million to the Powell Bill program in fiscal year 2019-20, and an additional \$14.75 million beyond that in 2020-21, for total appropriations of \$162.25 million in 2019-20 and \$177 million in 2020-21, with a specification that 80 percent of the increased funds be used for street resurfacing.

He reported the Police Department has conducted traffic patrols in the areas of Marshall, Oakley and W. 8th Streets, with almost 100 traffic violation tickets being issued during the month of April, mostly for speeding. Chief Martin received texts from concerned citizens saying officers were doing a great job at these locations.

He said Hannah's Place will be holding a march on May 18th on Roanoke Avenue from their thrift store to Centennial Park. The Police Department will be assisting with security and traffic control. Congressman Butterfield is scheduled to be the speaker at this event.

City Manager Scherer announced Jeff Davis has received his Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate from the State Department of Justice. This program is intended to recognize the level of competence of law enforcement officers and recognition for education, professional training, and on-the-job experience of highly qualified officers.

He reported the Fire Department conducted some innovative training last week with some of the 911 Center operators. The intent was to provide them, as well as our firefighters, the experience of what it's like to be at the other end of the communications link when an emergency occurs. The operators received training on the different types of vehicles and their capabilities that the City and County have at their disposal. The firemen were placed in a remote location with a computer and radio, responding to emergency calls just as the operators do. The training helped both groups gain a better appreciation of what the other goes

through in their job performance as well as learning how to better handle an emergency response call.

He stated mowing keeps the Public Works department fully occupied. Asphalt patching with the new machine continues as weather and staff permits and so far they have done over 200 potholes.

He said from the Planning & Development, the Hardee's on Julian Allsbrook is planning a demolition and rebuild project, no start date has been set yet. A permit request has been received for the construction of a new commercial office building from Roseburg Forest Products to be built on NC 125 near the Cross Creek development.

He announced the following upcoming events:

- Jo Story Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social: May 8th at 3:30 p.m.
- Iraq/Afghanistan War on Terrorism Memorial Unveiling: Saturday, May 11th at 10 a.m.
- NC Supreme Court Meeting in Halifax on Monday, May 13th.
- Health Insurance Open Enrollment, May 14th & 15th at Kirkwood Adams
- Jo Story Luncheon, May 16th at 11:30 a.m. at Kirkwood Adams
- 1st Annual "Protecting the Heroes" Golf Tournament sponsored by the Roanoke Rapids Fireman's Club on May 17th at Chockoyotte Country Club.

Mayor Doughtie said one item City Manager Scherer touched on was concerning the Powell Bill money. The Powell Bill money is where Public Works Director Chalker and his department get the funding for street repairs. Anyone that travels the City's streets knows that we are in desperate need of those funds. He hopes the legislators would see fit to fund that bill. He said we have been struggling for quite a while with needing paving more so than just repairing potholes. That is where a good bit of that money comes from for those projects.

Other Business

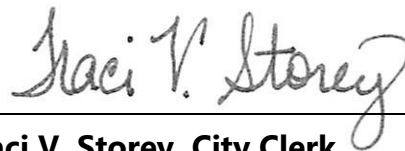
Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing the citizens in District 2 to elect their next Council person, whomever that may be, in November.

Mayor Doughtie stated it was good to see people interested in the offices of the School Board, City Council and to serve on the City's committees. Since the ten

years he has been Mayor, it has been difficult to find individuals to step up and do these types of things.

Mayor Doughtie said we get criticized a lot of times about our community and the things we do not have, but then somebody from a larger city or another area will come in and they are wowed about how when we go to a restaurant or church, we generally know just about everybody there and can find somebody to talk to. People from larger cities don't have that. He thinks the comment that Lance Martin made tonight about the firefighters and rescue people reaching out and coming to help him, he knows them and that is what you get from a small community. He said they also would like to recognize the people coming in behind us, the next generation. We heard from a couple of those tonight and congratulated them on their efforts and what they are doing in the community. We are very fortunate to look a generation or two generations back and it makes you feel better about things to come. He had a friend make a statement that if people don't care, after this generation is gone, who was going to be there to "carry the torch" to make our community and country great again. He recognized the families of Elijah Lee and Kaileb Harrison by asking them to please stand.

There being no further business, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.



Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Approved by Council Action on: May 21, 2019