



# Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

**Present:** Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor  
Wayne Smith, Mayor Pro Tem

W. Keith Bell)  
Sandra W. Bryant)  
Rex Stainback)  
Curtis Strickland)

### Council Members

Kelly Traynham, City Manager  
Geoffrey Davis, City Attorney  
Traci Storey, City Clerk  
Shane Guyant, Police Chief

**Absent:** Carmen Johnson, Finance Director  
Jason Patrick, Fire Chief  
Christina Caudle, Human Resources Director  
Tony Hall, Main Street Development Director  
John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director  
Kristyn Anderson, Interim Planning Director  
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director

Mayor Doughtie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He provided an invocation and then the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## Adoption of Business Agenda

Mayor Doughtie 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 Smith, seconded by Councilman Bell, and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda as presented.

## Public Comment (Unscheduled)

### Carl Ferebee

Mr. Ferebee thanked City Council for the resolution last month. It was a great resolution and he really appreciated it. Sometimes he does not know how to react to all the accolades because it is usually in reverse; he usually is doing and giving that. Also, Halifax County did a great resolution today as well. He appreciated those who were able to come to be a part of that. He stated he knows 2024 was going to be a good year. He sees eyes that are open and ready to go. He knows 2024 was going to be a great year and they will continue to work on doing the right thing and doing those things that are right. Sometimes, they look at a brand-new year and go back and rethink things. He hopes they will continue to do that and think about things that are out there. He appreciates them. He plans to continue to come to some meetings; he will not make them all. He will support Councilman Bell as he told him he would and continue to be a part of the city. He will never forget that and give that up. He wished them a great year.

Mayor Doughtie stated he thought today was a good day also. The people there did not have to read a script on what they wanted to say about Mr. Ferebee. It was from the experiences they had with him over a long period of time. It was something they had in their heart and their mind. He did not know Mr. Ferebee's pastor very well, but he can tell by his genuine conversation about him that he is a vital part of his ministry at his church. That speaks great volumes about him. He thinks people will say good things about Mr. Ferebee. A man of his word is the meaning of self-worth. He believes people hold him in high esteem and he congratulates him for that.

## Approval of City Council Minutes

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Stainback, and unanimously carried to approve the December 19, 2023 Special Meeting and December 19, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting minutes as drafted.

## City Manager's Report

City Manager Traynham reported that citizens would be receiving mail from the Halifax County Tax Assessors Office. The revaluation information is included in the notice. Citizens are going to notice an increase in property values in many cases. This afternoon, City staff reached out to Halifax County to figure out what the numbers were looking like. By the end of this week, they expect to have some of the total calculations and the anticipated difference in the current tax amounts in relation to

the revaluations and what that would mean for the City. The Halifax County Tax Office is responsible for conducting the appraisals of property. The City of Roanoke Rapids does not have any input or influence into property values. She added the County also included a very good question and answer form in the notice. She stated they do expect there to be some appeals that may change the final numbers.

She acknowledged staff for the cleanup after the Christmas holiday. The first day back they collected over 70 tons on the Wednesday after Christmas. There was a lot of extra trash, but they anticipate that this time of year with the holidays. She complimented staff for trying to keep the city as clean and neat as possible. It takes everyone to keep the trash cleaned up.

City Manager Traynham stated she would be reaching out to City Council to identify some dates to hold a one-day retreat to determine some goals and objectives for the upcoming year.

Mayor Doughtie asked if they would look at the revaluation and determine what kind of increase in revenues. He recalled in the last revaluation most property values went down so they did a revenue neutral increase in the taxes.

City Manager Traynham replied they are required by law to be revenue neutral and review the City's budget relative to the tax rate when revaluations occur. That will be evaluated as part of their overall budget process this spring.

Mayor Doughtie stated the tax value was supposed to be about what you can sell a house for. He also made note of increases in home insurance relative to the prior year and that replacement costs for homes have increased due to the increase in the cost of materials.

<p><b>Other Business/Closed Session</b></p>
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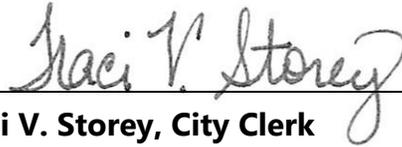
Motion was made by Councilman Stainback; seconded by Councilman Strickland and unanimously carried to go into closed session to discuss a Personnel Matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6).

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*Minute Book Pages 21534 - 21540 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.*

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Smith, seconded by Councilman Bell and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.



Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

**Approved by Council Action on: January 16, 2024**