



Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, August 4, 2020 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
Sandra W. Bryant)
Suetta S. Scarbrough)
Wayne Smith)

Council Members

Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager
Geoffrey Davis, City Attorney
Traci Storey, City Clerk
Leigh Etheridge, Finance Director *
Kathy Kearney, Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Manager
Bobby Martin, Police Chief
Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director
Jason Patrick, Fire Chief *
Christina Caudle, Main Street Director

Absent: Councilman Ernest C. Bobbitt
John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director

**Denotes those joining remotely using Zoom.*

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

Adoption of Business Agenda

Mayor Doughtie asked Council members if there were any additions, corrections or 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 Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for August 4, 2020 as presented.

Special Recognitions

William Mahone, V

Mayor Doughtie stated Mr. Mahone has been in the community for 15 years. In that time he has had quite a few conversations with Mr. Mahone. Many involved people that were in the hospital. Some of them were alone and it appeared to be one of those times when it was the end of life. He would call on Mr. Mahone to go by and speak to them or a family member. He was always willing to do that and it didn't seem to be a task for him or part of his job; it was something he enjoyed doing. He had also called on Mr. Mahone when the hospital did something to go out of its way to make his experience or someone else's experience in the hospital a better time to be there. Sometimes hospitals get a bad rap, but people don't really feel good when they go there so they are probably not in the best of moods. Not only now, but healthcare workers have always been stretched out pretty thin. When the hospital gets criticized, just think how it would be if we did not have a hospital. He believes Mr. Mahone has said our hospital is an acute care hospital. He wants to have a good hospital, but they hope they can keep you well and you don't have to come into the hospital; that's the goal. He believes Mr. Mahone has put forth effort and tried to instil upon people that it is easier to remain out of the hospital when you take that extra step to try to keep yourself healthy. In 1912, the first hospital was built here in Roanoke Rapids on the Avenue, then there was Halifax Memorial, Halifax Regional and now it is Vidant North. He said he was proud to have a hospital and it continues to move forward.

Mayor Doughtie read and presented the following Resolution of Appreciation to Mr. Mahone:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

William Mahone, V

WHEREAS, Will Mahone moved to Roanoke Rapids in 2005 when he was appointed President of Halifax Regional Medical Center (now known as Vidant North Hospital); and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Mahone's leadership Vidant North Hospital developed key community partnerships, renovated outpatient and surgery areas, created an ambulatory surgery center within the hospital and recruited over 50 physicians and advanced practice providers; and

WHEREAS, Will Mahone is a member of the NC Hospital Association's Regional Policy Council, Halifax Horizons Economic Development Organization and the Roanoke Rapids Lions Club. He is a Board member of the Vidant North Directors Council, Advisory Board for the School of Health Sciences at Elon University and Vice Chairman of the Board of the Southern Atlantic Healthcare Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Will Mahone has announced that he will retire in September, 2020 after a career of over 36 years in the healthcare industry; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of Roanoke Rapids owe Mr. Mahone a debt of gratitude for his distinguished years of service and for his commitment to improving the health of rural Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids to publicly recognize and extend its sincere appreciation to Will Mahone for the valuable service he has provided to this community for the past 15 years, and wishes him a long and happy retirement which he so richly deserves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the City Council in testimony thereof and a copy be presented to Will Mahone in token of the respect and appreciation from the Mayor, City Council and citizens of Roanoke Rapids.

ADOPTED this 4th day of August, 2020

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Mr. Mahone thanked the Mayor and City Council for the honor and privilege of being a part of this community. He said they have moved a lot when changing hospitals. When he and Bonnie came here 15 years ago, they really knew they had found the right place. His family was originally from near Courtland, Virginia so he has always been able to work in places where he felt like he grew up and people were his neighbors, so it was always easy for him work hard and take care of the people they serve. He thanked everyone for allowing them to be a part of this community. No one person creates a great hospital, but every great community has a great hospital.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020.05.

Marvin Purnell

Public Work Director Chalker recognized Marvin Purnell. He said Mr. Purnell started his career with the City of Roanoke Rapids at the age of 24 as a Sanitation Worker in the Public Works Department on June 25, 1990. In November 1991, Mr. Purnell was promoted to Sanitation Equipment Operator and worked in that position until 1997. In July 1997, Mr. Purnell was promoted to Senior Sanitation Equipment Operator. Mr. Purnell became the Sanitation Superintendent over the Sanitation and Refuse Divisions at Public Works in January 2010 where he continued to work as an absolute top performer and leader until his retirement effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Purnell was an example of leading by example. He was also a member of the Emergency Response

Team in the Public Works Department. This team is the first on the scene when there is an emergency alongside the Fire Department and Police Department due to storms or other emergency situations. Mr. Purnell always stepped up and worked whenever and wherever he was needed. He can operate any piece of equipment the City has. His expertise and knowledge of the city, its streets and citizens has been a wonderful asset to the Public Works Department. They have been fortunate to have Mr. Purnell as a coworker and leader. Public Works Director Chalker announced Mr. Purnell was going to return working with the department part-time and continue to be a part of the department. He hated to see Mr. Purnell retire, but he has worked very hard for this retirement.

Public Works Director Chalker presented Mr. Purnell with a plaque recognizing his distinguished and dedicated service to the City of Roanoke Rapids from June 25, 1990 – June 30, 2020.

Approval of City Council Minutes

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to approve the July 21, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting minutes as drafted.

Committee Reappointments

Canal Museum Advisory Committee

City Clerk Storey stated the terms for Kathy White, Friends of the Canal Representative, and Jeff White, the School District Representative, on the Canal Museum Advisory Committee expired April 30, 2020. She contacted both of them and they are willing to serve another term.

Ms. White has served the maximum number of 2 consecutive terms allowed by the City policy, but City Council has the authority to waive this section of the policy.

A ballot vote was not required for these reappointments as they are not for At-Large appointments. She requested City Council make a motion to waive the City policy for Kathy White and re-appoint both Ms. White and Jeff White to the Canal Museum Advisory Committee.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to waive the City Policy for Ms. White and reappoint both Kathy White and Jeff White to the Canal Museum Advisory Committee.

Library Advisory Committee

City Clerk Storey said the terms for Brenda Stephenson, James Ketoff and William Mueller on the Library Advisory Committee expired May 23, 2020. She contacted all 3 of them and they are willing to serve another term.

Ms. Stephenson, Dr. Ketoff and Mr. Mueller have served the maximum number of 2 consecutive terms allowed by the City policy, but again City Council has the authority to waive this section of the policy.

City Council took a ballot vote and all 3 candidates received a unanimous vote. She requested City Council make a motion to waive the City policy and re-appoint Brenda Stephenson, James Ketoff and William Mueller to the Library Advisory Committee.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Bryant and unanimously carried to waive the City Policy and reappoint Brenda Stephenson, James Ketoff and William Mueller to the Library Advisory Committee.

Halifax Northampton Regional Airport Authority

Chris Canady serves as one of the two representatives for the City on the Halifax-Northampton Regional Airport Authority. Halifax County, who oversees the board, informed me his term expired in January.

She contacted Mr. Canady and he would like to continuing serving on this board. She requested City Council reappoint Chris Canady to the Halifax-Northampton Regional Airport Authority.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to reappoint Chris Canady to the Halifax-Northampton Regional Airport Authority.

Public Hearing

CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Planning & Development Director Lasky reminded City Council that about a year ago they applied under the 2019 program for CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization and that application was not funded. North Carolina received \$10M this past Spring for a similar program, the neighborhood revitalization program, but they have opened it up to encourage COVID-19 response projects as well. She requested Mayor Doughtie open the public hearing.

Mayor Doughtie declared the public hearing open.

Planning & Development Director Lasky presented the following report:

MEMORANDUM

To: Joseph Scherer, City Manager

From: Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director

Re: **Public Hearing to Receive Comments on Potential Application for the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization Program**

Date: July 24, 2020

Background

The North Carolina Division of Community Investment and Assistance recently opened the application window for the FY 2020 Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) Funding under Title I of the Housing Community Development Act program. The program requires that the applicant conduct two (2) public hearings to receive comment regarding the proposed application. **This will be the first public hearing to receive comments from citizens concerning the priorities for the community development and housing and economic development needs of the City.**

NC Neighborhood Program

The maximum grant amount is \$750,000 per grantee with some restrictions for activities. The NC Neighborhood Program does not have a matching fund requirement. Activities must be based on needs and meet one of the following two national objectives: low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents, or elimination of area-wide/spot slum and blight.

The primary purpose of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program is to provide grants to local governments to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income residents. The NC Neighborhood Program project must incorporate at least one of the following three livability principles as an area of focus: **(1) Promote equitable affordable housing; (2) Support existing communities; and/or (3) Value communities and neighborhoods.** Eligible housing activities for this grant include single family and multi-family, rehabilitation, acquisition, demolition, clearance, relocation, substantial rehabilitation, replacement housing and emergency repairs. Eligible special projects can include public facilities such as transitional housing, senior centers, neighborhood recreation areas, and parks.

If the City chooses to pursue up to a \$750,000 CDBG-NR application, a second public hearing will need to be held prior to the August 31, 2020 application deadline.

Requested Action

1. Open and conduct the public hearing to receive public comments concerning a possible grant application to the 2020 CDBG Funding under Title I of the Housing Community Development Act.
2. Receive comments from the public.

3. Motion to close the public hearing concerning a possible grant application to the 2020 CDBG Funding under Title I of the Housing Community Development Act.

Planning & Development Director Lasky said there is \$10M available with the maximum award being \$750,000. About ten communities will be eligible to receive funding under this current program. The purpose of this public hearing was to receive any information from the public, citizens and interested persons on the development needs within the City. That could be housing or economic development. The purpose of the program is to revitalize neighborhoods, promote equitable housing, support existing communities and value communities and neighborhoods.

She reported the application is due August 31, 2020. This is the first of two required public hearings. In a couple of weeks they will hold another public hearing with more specific details about what will be included in the application. The program requires all homes to be revitalized to be owner-occupied. They would have to meet certain income thresholds – moderate to low income housing. For example, a household of one person could not make more than \$30,950 per year. There is a scale for the number of person per household relative to the household income. Potential participants in the program will have be current with their property taxes and all must have some sort of severe water/sewer needs or structural deficiencies. Through their minimum housing program they have identified a few potential applicants to the program that could prevent a demolition scenario down the road. Rental units are not allowed in the program. Mobile or manufactured homes would have to be converted to real property so it would have to be on a permanent foundation to be considered. As far as addressing the COVID-19 response for prioritization of funds, they were looking at placing priority on homes that are for individuals of vulnerable populations. Around here, based on demographics, health statistics and age, they feel confident between those risk factors of getting COVID-19 and household incomes, they can pick up about 7-9 homes under the grant program. They will collect names and addresses and have them complete information to create a list. They will prioritize the list and bring to City Council for approval in a couple of weeks.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked if the City would be pursuing the \$750,000. Planning & Development Director Lasky replied that was correct. He asked if there were some earmarked. She replied they were looking at some owner-occupied homes that Code Enforcement has identified to have some severe needed repairs. Starting tomorrow, they will get more aggressive and have a detailed sheet with applicant requirements and an application for people to complete. They will compile a prioritized list and City Council will be the selection committee. If one were to fall through, they will have backups or if some other funding becomes available, they may be able to do more.

Mayor Doughtie asked what happens in a situation if an owner is awarded the funds,

revamps the home and then he sells it in a year or two. Planning & Development Director Lasky replied there are some deed restrictions on that and there is a certain repayment period. After eight years, the funds would be forgiven. She added it also requires \$0 match of the City so no City funds would be expended except for staff time.

Councilman Smith asked if this was the same type of grant that was done on Henry Street. Planning & Development Director Lasky replied it was similar; that one was not a Neighborhood Revitalization Program. CDBG has various program divisions.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked if any of the homes had been identified and if they were clustered in a specific area. Planning & Development Director Lasky said the two they have specifically identified that have significant needs are not in the same neighborhood. One is on Washington Street and the other is on Cedar Street. With this grant program, they do not have to have a specific neighborhood block like in the past. They can do scattered housing. She added the primary requirement is that the housing be owner-occupied, all taxes paid, not rented and there are some severe structural needs or deficiencies; cosmetic improvements do not qualify. As part of the application, prior to any approval for funding for a particular address, a home inspection will be done by City staff to identify those specific needs. Assuming the City would be awarded the funding, the City would have to contract out for contractors under the grant program to pay for them to improve the houses. A lot of the improvements are for energy efficiency, removing asbestos, lead paint and improving plumbing.

Mayor Doughtie asked if any of the money be used for demolition. She replied there can be demolition with it, but there has to be a reuse plan associated with the funding. So if you demolish, you have to rebuild.

Mayor Doughtie said when they look at possibly demolishing a home, they look at it because the cost of repairing it is more than it would be advantageous to do so. He did not know if having a building contractor involved in the process might make it easier for staff to make the decision versus just Code Enforcement. Planning & Development Director Lasky stated it was a Federal grant so they have to follow very specific guidelines so all of that would be documented and it is audited. If they found a situation where an owner was living in a home that was considered substantial or beyond repair, the grant could pay for temporary relocation of the owner while the home was being demolished and reconstructed.

Mayor Doughtie asked if anyone in the audience wished to come forward and speak on this matter.

With no public comment, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Bryant and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

New Business

Consideration of Resolution Approving Surplus Items in Accordance with NCGS 160A-270(c) - Electronic Auction Surplus Items

Public Works Director Chalker presented the following resolution considering a list of surplus items and authorizing the sale of the items by electronic auction. He stated the original list was 23 items and they have added 10 more items from the Fire Department, for a total of 33 different items they wish to put up for auction.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020.06

Resolution Approving Surplus Items

In accordance with NCGS 160A-270(c) – Electronic Auction

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Rapids City Council desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the City; and

WHEREAS, the following items have been identified as being surplus to the needs of the City:

<i>Vehicle #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Serial/Vin #</i>
288	2014 Carry-on Trailer	4YMUL1214EG051145
	3 Front End Trailer Attachments	
	2- 9 Ft Snow Plows	
	5-Ft Disc Plow	
	6-Ft Straight Blade Tractor Attachment	
	7-Ft Flail Mower (Model #17470088)	241096
	Kohler 60KW Generator (Model #60RH0Z71)	
	PortaAir Air Compressor (CPS-90)	11431
	Ferri Long Arm Flail Mower Attachment-30 in	TA32
636	Chevy Small Dump Truck	1GBHR34K8KJ118806
	5-Ft Tractor Bucket	
242	Stow Static Roller-28 inches	
	2011 Ford Crown Vic-Parts Car (P-148)	2FABP7BV2BX155570
	2011 Ford Crown Vic- Parts Car (P141)	2FABP7BV5BX155563
208S	Good Roads 10 Ft Sand Spreader with Stand	
	10 Ft Spreader Stand	
	8 x 6-1/2 Dog Box Truck Body	
	Leaf Machines: All for Parts 480-I 480-J 480-K	LCT600SP LCT600SP LCT600SP
P-9	2007 Dodge Charger	2B3KA43H77H709109
P-11	2007 Dodge Charger	2B3KA43H97H709113
P-19	2007 Ford Crown Vic	2FAFP71W97X126070

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Rapids City Council, at a Regular Meeting on December 13, 2011, adopted Resolution No. 2011.25 authorizing the use of electronic auction services to dispose of surplus property; and

WHEREAS, the necessary agreements with GovDeals, Inc. are in place to utilize the company's electronic auction service to dispose of surplus items;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roanoke Rapids City Council hereby declares the foregoing list of property to be surplus to the needs of the City, and authorizes disposal of these items by electronic auction (specifically by website: www.govdeals.com) in accordance with NCGS 160A-270(c).

ADOPTED this 4th day of August, 2020.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

List of Additional Fire Department Items to be Auctioned

- 1- SuperVac PPV Fan with Tecumseh Engine
- 1- Tempast PPV Fan with Honda Engine
- 1- PPV Fan with Honda Engine
- 1- Bosch Battery Tool Kit with Drill, Light, Saw & Reciprocating Saw
- 2- Metal Office Desks
- 2- (2) Drawer File Cabinets
- 2- (4) Drawer File Cabinets
- 1000' Miscellaneous Fire Hose
- 1- Shindaiwa Weed Eater
- 1- Water Pump with Briggs & Stratton Motor

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020.06, including the additional list of Fire Department items presented, to officially declare the items as surplus and authorize the sale by electronic auction.

Consideration of Resolution Adopting Title VI Policy

Planning & Development Director Lasky stated typically they see this with their CDBG programs, but in this case the NC Department of Transportation is asking the City annually to provide documentation of the Title VI non-discrimination policy for funds since NCDOT funds are funneled through state and federal funding. She presented the following resolution and copy of the policy:

Resolution No. 2020.07

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A TITLE VI POLICY FOR THE CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS
TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION IN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND IN ACTIVITIES
RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

WHEREAS, in 1964, Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which included that section labeled Title VI which prohibits discrimination in any activity which is financed by federal funds or received financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of Title VI, additional federal regulations and court decisions have further refined the definition of “federal financial assistance” and what entities are affected and controlled by Title VI; and

WHEREAS, the City of Roanoke Rapids has no formal policy in place for defining and preventing discrimination in the activities for the entities Title VI affects; and

WHEREAS, the interpretation and application are not intuitive or readily understood, requiring an understanding of what “federal financial assistance” might be in any particular situation and what persons or entities must comply with Title VI; and

WHEREAS, a policy and procedure for reporting violations will provide guidelines for the City, City Departments and private persons and companies doing business with the City and receiving federal financial assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids that the attached “Title VI Policy” is hereby adopted as the official policy of the City of Roanoke Rapids for applying, reporting and enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to approve this policy on a yearly basis if no changes are made to it.

Adopted this 4th day of August, 2020.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

**CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS
TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the City of Roanoke Rapids to ensure that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, limited English Proficiency, income-level, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any City of Roanoke Rapids program or activity, including, where applicable, religion, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other pertinent nondiscrimination authorities.

The following practices are hereby prohibited throughout the City of Roanoke Rapids to comply, at a minimum, with Title VI and related requirements:

- Denying to an individual any standard service, financial aid, or other program benefit without good cause;
- Providing any service, financial aid, or other benefit to a person which is distinct in quantity or quality, or is provided in a different manner, from that provided to others under the program;
- Subjecting a person to segregation or separate treatment in any part of a program;
- Restriction in the enjoyment of any advantages, privileges or other benefits enjoyed by others;
- Methods of administration which, directly or through contractual relations, would defeat or substantially impair the accomplishment of effective nondiscrimination;
- Different standards, criteria, or other requirements for admission, enrollment, or participation in planning, advisory, contractual or other integral activities;
- Acts of intimidation or retaliation, including threatening, coercing, or discrimination against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by any pertinent nondiscrimination law, or because s/he has made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing;
- Discrimination in any employment resulting from a program, a primary objective of which is to provide employment.

Planning & Development Director Lasky stated this policy was developed similar to those other communities have adopted as researched by City Clerk Storey.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked for clarification on the reason for the policy. She replied anytime the City receives federal or state funds through NCDOT, it is required to have a non-discrimination policy in place. Staff met and decided one that was specific to cover NCDOT's requirements for the whole City and its projects would be appropriate. It basically upholds the Civil Rights Act and provides an alternative route for those that feel that discrimination has taken place.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated he initially heard it was for NCDOT but clarified it was for the entire City with any project relating to federal funds. Planning & Development Director Lasky replied yes, but this was specifically requested by NCDOT. Most of the City's policies are directed more at the CDBG projects. This one covers all things, not just CDBG.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked if one line can be added to the resolution where it indicates the City Manager is authorized to approve this policy on a yearly basis if no changes are made to it. He requested if the City Manager does this, could he inform City Council that it has been done whether by email, letter or other means.

Planning & Development Director Lasky replied since this was an annual submission to NCDOT, it could be presented to City Council prior to that every year.

Mayor Doughtie asked Attorney Davis if City Council could still vote on it tonight and pass it with that sentence being added. Attorney Davis replied yes, there would just need to be an amendment made to the resolution.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee said he wanted to amend the resolution to add a line that City Council would be informed of his or her actions. In his opinion, it did not necessarily have to be done before. Planning & Development Director Lasky asked if the addition to the last sentence would read, "with notification to City Council." He replied yes.

Councilman Smith asked for no longer than it takes to approve this resolution, could they just leave out the last line rather than adding to it. Planning & Development Director Lasky said they have to present one to NCDOT every year so one will have to be re-dated each year. They need some authorizing person or board make it current. She believes a statement would need to be in place as to who would be the one to renew it; this one says the City Manager may do it if no changes are made.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Bryant to adopt Resolution No. 2020.07 approving a Title VI Policy for the City of Roanoke Rapids with the addition that the City Manager will inform City Council of his or her actions.

Councilman Smith asked the City Attorney if it was legal for them to do it like this. Attorney Davis replied yes and agreed with Planning & Development Director Lasky that they would not want to take that sentence out for clarity sake. They would have to go through this resolution process every year and bring it before City Council for a new resolution to be passed. This way it allows the City Manager to do it and with the amendment he would give notice. If there were changes made to it - additions, or subtractions, a new resolution would have to be done pursuant to the text of this and subject to the amendment Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee made.

Mayor Doughtie called for a vote. All voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scherer recognized the Public Works Department, Police Department and Fire Department for their prompt actions and response to help mitigate the storm damage suffered by the city last night.

City Manager Scherer gave the following report:

The Parks and Recreation Department, along with Ms. Caudle of the Main Street Roanoke Rapids group, helped to make the ribbon cutting of the Sarah Keys Evans a very successful event. Both entities were instrumental in helping to get the project off the ground and ultimately resulting in the monument coming into existence. The project has received national media attention and is an example of what can be achieved when everyone works together for a higher purpose.

The Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments (UCPCOG) is asking for a three-year contract proposal with optional extension to provide Brownfields environmental consulting and site assessment services to the UCPCOG in support of their recently awarded EPA Brownsfields Assessment grant. The old Westpoint Stevens/Sonrise Mill site is part of this grand award, which needs a vapor intrusion study before it can be commercially marketed as a safe industrial site. Project activities should start in October on this property.

The Police Department completed the first group participation last week in diversity and inclusion training provided by Dr. Stephanie Credle of Chrysalis Training and

Consulting. The one-day training session included topics on diversity versus inclusion; unconscious bias; conflict styles; de-escalating conflict and leading in crisis. This training is important in helping our officers learn how to achieve compliance with suspects and in tense situation at the lowest level of forces necessary. The next session will be on August 13th for the other half of the department.

Chief Martin and myself are arranging another meeting with local community leaders to continue dialogue regarding improving and maintaining our minority community's trust with the Police Department. Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and Councilperson Bryant are also part of the discussion group. At the next meeting we will be discussing Community Oriented Policing (COP) program opportunities. Also, the Police Department has received several applications for Patrol Officer vacancies.

The Main Street Roanoke Rapids (MSRR) group reports business inquiries in the District area have increased. Ms. Caudle has had meetings with several potential business clients and some properties could be moving into new ownership. The Loft Apartment project should be completed by late September or early October. Unfortunately, a new coffee shop on the Avenue cannot receive its certification from the County Health Department until the State moves into Phase 3 of COVID-19 response. The new brewery project at the old bus station continues to move forward slowly. The Small Business Center at HCC, through Kelly Barber, is offering pandemic counseling services free to small business clients. She will match the small business with appropriate professional services (e.g. website design).

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked where the new coffee shop was located. He replied it was near the 1026 Roanoke Avenue green space. It was about four doors down from City Hall.

Councilwoman Bryant stated the Sarah Keys Evans dedication was a wonderful event and appreciated the cooperation of the City including Parks & Recreation Director Simeon and Ms. Caudle for working with that project. She said it could be and can be very big for our City. Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee agreed.

Mayor Doughtie stated they had two members of Sarah Keys Evans' family there, her niece and great-niece came to receive the awards. They appeared to be very appreciative and Ms. Evans made comments by phone.

Other Business

Councilman Smith stated he made a motion last meeting for the Public Works

Director to check into the work being done at the Theatre and asked for a brief update. Public Works Director Chalker reported there were a few items mentioned in the agreement for them to track for repair. The first item was to repair the out of date elevator. He was told the elevator was working but needs fluid added to it so that item is still incomplete. The next item was to repair any roof leaks and disintegrating roof level immediately below the cupola and behind the bannisters. This is a two-part item. Part one is complete. The maintenance person has sealed the roof with a special roof sealant and it is no longer leaking. The second item is the spire which is on top of the cupola around the base of the spire; it is suspected there is a leak there. That item remains incomplete, they have not figured out how to get up there to perform that repair. It is probably the tallest point of the building. The next item: complete any service and inspection requirements of the fire pump, back generator and undertake any repairs necessary. The generator is running, they had to put a battery in it. Also, for the sprinkler system and fire pump, they have an August 12th appointment with a sprinkler inspection company. The last item: repair and restore to working order the M/A Light DMX desk, which controls the production lighting fixtures. They do not have any word of repair or purchase so that remains incomplete. He stated overall it was kind of 50/50.

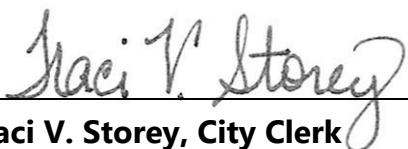
Councilman Smith stated it answered his question, but it was still part of the contract that everything would be done by July 30th. He said this was something the City Manager and City Attorney needs to discuss and see that it all gets completed.

Attorney Davis agreed.

Mayor Doughtie asked if City Council could get another update at the next meeting in regards to the conversation with them. Attorney Davis replied yes.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.



Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Approved by Council Action on: August 18, 2020