



# Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** the Council Chambers at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall

**Present:** Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor  
Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem  
Ernest C. Bobbitt)  
Sandra Bryant)  
Suetta S. Scarbrough)  
Wayne Smith)

## **Council Members**

Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager  
Geoffrey Davis, City Attorney  
Leigh Etheridge, Finance Director  
Traci Storey, City Clerk  
Kathy Kearney, Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Manager  
Bobby Martin, Police Chief  
Christina Caudle, Main Street Director

Mayor Doughtie called the meeting to order and gave an invocation.

Mayor Doughtie stated there was only one item on the agenda. This being a topic City Council has had several conversations about and hopefully have arrived at a decision tonight.

### **Amendment to the FY 2020/2021 Budget to Purchase Police and Fire Vehicles**

City Manager Scherer said after due consideration, it has been determined that the best option to immediately procure vehicles for the City's Police and Fire Departments is to utilize fund balance monies for their purchase, with the understanding that we will in the near future bring an installment financing proposal for the same amount to you for approval. The installment financing monies would be used to reimburse the Fund Balance for the vehicle purchase costs and the debt payment would be included in next fiscal year's budget proposal.

He requested City Council consider the following actions for approval:

1. Rescind the motion made on December 15, 2020 allowing the City Manager to enter into a leasing contract with Enterprise Fleet Management to lease five (5)

2021 Dodge Durangos for the Police Department Fleet and one (1) 2021 Chevrolet Silverado for the Fire Department Fleet.

2. Consider a second motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021.02 amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget to appropriate \$190,000 in Fund Balance for the Purpose of Purchasing five (5) 2021 Dodge Durangos for Police and one (1) 2021 Ford F-150 for Fire Department from White Motors.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked City Manager Scherer what he meant by the near future and if they did this they needed some comment relating to how they were planning to replenish the request in number two. City Manager Scherer replied they had one proposal from a financial institution and he was reaching out to another one, so he would anticipate they could bring something to them by the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked if they would consider adding something to that effect to the number two item. City Manager Scherer replied his comments on procuring installment financing proposals for City Council to approve would be in the minutes. He feels that would be sufficient to document they would be presenting something to City Council.

Mayor Doughtie asked Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee if he would like to yield to the City Attorney. He replied he was looking for wording and would like to see it stated in the motion. He did not know if the City Manager or City Attorney could help with that wording.

City Manager Scherer offered some language to add to number two.

*Respectfully request Council consider a motion to allow the City Manager to bring forward Installment Financing Contract for approval; when the process is completed, for the reimbursement assistance needed to fund vehicles. Funding will reimburse Fund Balance through a Bank Note Payable for \$190,000.*

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated that sounded good. City Manager Scherer said Attorney Davis was reviewing the language before City Council makes a motion.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to rescind the motion made on December 15, 2020 allowing the City Manager to enter into a leasing contract with Enterprise Fleet Management to lease five (5) 2021 Dodge Durangos for the Police Department Fleet and one (1) 2021 Chevrolet Silverado for the Fire Department Fleet.

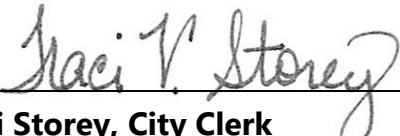
Attorney Davis suggested leaving the second motion as is and at the end of the sentence put a comma after White Motors and add: *to ask the City Manager to bring forward an installment contract for approval at the appropriate time.*

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee said he had a problem with appropriate time and near future. He would like to see a definite time such as next month. He suggested by the second meeting in March. He asked if that would be enough time.

Finance Director Etheridge said she believed things should be moving forward. If she sees they cannot close a loan by that date she will alert City Manager Scherer ahead of time so they can bring that to City Council.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee; seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to approve Ordinance No. 2021.02 amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget to appropriate \$190,000 in Fund Balance for the Purpose of Purchasing five (5) 2021 Dodge Durangos for Police and one (1) 2021 Ford F-150 for Fire Department from White Motors, and to ask the City Manager to bring forward an installment contract for approval by the March 16, 2021 City Council meeting to reimburse and replace this appropriation to the fund balance.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Bryant and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

  
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Traci Storey, City Clerk

**Approved by Council Action on: February 16, 2021**