



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 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

Present: Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor
Sandra W. Bryant, Mayor Pro Tem

Andy Jackson)
Curtis Strickland)
Rex Stainback)
W. Keith Bell)

Council Members

Kelly Traynham, City Manager
Geoffrey Davis, City Attorney
Traci Storey, City Clerk
Carmen Johnson, Finance Director
Lawrence Wiggins, Police Chief
Kristyn Anderson, Planning & Development Director
Kelly Daughtry, Parks & Recreation Director
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director
Jason Patrick, Fire Chief

Absent: Christina Caudle, Human Resources Director

Mayor Doughtie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Doughtie provided an invocation. 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 Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda as presented.

Special Recognitions

Proclamation – Two Lights for Tomorrow

City Clerk Storey stated as they approach the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, America 250 NC invites all North Carolinians to take part in a powerful national moment of reflection and unity: **Two Lights for Tomorrow**. On **April 18, 2025**, communities across the United States will join together to honor the spirit of cooperation and courage that helped ignite the American Revolution.

Inspired by Paul Revere's legendary midnight ride and the signal lanterns hung in Boston's Old North Church in 1775—one if by land, two if by sea—this initiative remembers the vital role early Americans played in defending liberty and preparing for a better future. By placing two lights in the darkness, we commemorate not only a pivotal moment in history but also our shared commitment to working together for the common good.

In this spirit, America 250 NC encourages every county courthouse, town hall, school, community center, historic site, and household to display **two lights on April 18, 2025**, as a visible symbol of our unity, remembrance, and hope for tomorrow.

A Proclamation has been drafted to proclaim April 18, 2025 as "Two Lights for Tomorrow Day" in the City of Roanoke Rapids.

Mayor Doughtie read the following Proclamation:

City of Roanoke Rapids

PROCLAMATION TWO LIGHTS FOR TOMORROW DAY

WHEREAS, the City of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina recognizes the importance of commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a milestone that embodies our nation's founding ideals of equality, liberty, and justice; and

WHEREAS, on the night of April 18-19, 1775, Paul Revere undertook a perilous midnight ride to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock of the impending British troop movements, a pivotal moment that helped ignite the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Revere's famous ride was preceded by the hanging of two lanterns in the Old North Church steeple, signaling "two if by sea" to indicate the British approach by water, a code that has become an enduring symbol of American vigilance and preparedness; and

WHEREAS, Revere's journey alerting local militia and citizens exemplifies the spirit of community and shared responsibility that has defined our nation since its inception; and

WHEREAS, the actions of Revere and fellow riders William Dawes and Dr. Samuel Prescott led to the Battles of Lexington and Concord, marking the beginning of armed conflict in the American Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, the City of Roanoke Rapids pledges its support of the America 250 NC Commemoration and encourages participation in community events and programs that promote patriotism, unity, and reflection on our collective history; and

WHEREAS, the Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative, a nationwide campaign to commemorate the 250th birthday of the United States of America, unites us in remembrance of our shared history, honoring the sacrifices made by those who fought for our independence and the values we hold dear; and

WHEREAS, as part of the national initiative "Two Lights for Tomorrow" the City of Roanoke Rapids will display two lights at City Hall on April 18, 2025, to honor and draw inspiration from Paul Revere's historic ride, to unite Americans in reflection, celebration, and service; and

WHEREAS, other government agencies, local businesses and residents are encouraged to participate by displaying two lights on April 18, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor of the City of Roanoke Rapids, do hereby proclaim April 18, 2025, as "**Two Lights for Tomorrow Day**" in the City of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina.

THIS the 15th day of April, 2025.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Public Comment (Unscheduled)

Cheri Johnson

Ms. Johnson stated two weeks ago she was here asking about chickens in the city limits. The next day she presented City Council with some "homework" that was given to her right after the meeting about city ordinances and the different animals that were allowed and not allowed. After that she was given more homework by some people that called and that is what they have before them.

Mayor Doughtie said he has not had much time to look through and read the information she provided.

Ms. Johnson noted the information included the City of Greenville and Raleigh's city ordinances as well as other cities in North Carolina that allow chickens and livestock within their city limits. There is also bird flu information. It is rare for chickens to get bird flu since they are mostly in the coastal aviary. There are seagulls and osprey around here, but it is unlikely for them to come into someone's yard in the city; they are seen mostly in parking lots.

Mayor Doughtie said he knows City Manager Traynham has done some research and conferred with City Council members. The item is not on the meeting agenda so they will not vote on anything this evening. He spoke with her before the meeting since he saw Ms. Johnson had signed up to speak. He said City Manager Traynham will be in touch with her about City Council's decision in a timely manner.

Approval of City Council Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Councilman Strickland, and unanimously carried to approve the April 1, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting minutes as drafted.

New Business

Consideration of Resolution Approving Surplus Items to be Sold by Electronic Auction

Public Works Director Chalker presented Resolution No. 2025.05 requesting City Council declare the items as surplus and authorize the sale by electronic auction on GovDeals.com.

He noted recently the City had six items put up for auction on GovDeals.com that included two pieces of equipment, and those items brought in over \$20,000. GovDeals.com is a good marketplace for the City and have been very successful with it.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.05

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:

<u>VEHICLE #</u>	<u>VIN #/or SERIAL #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
606	1FTPF12V98KD79866	2009 FORD F150 (red)
609	1GCDT13E778176528	2007 CHEVY COLORADO
625	1N6SD11S4SC315921	1995 NISSAN TRUCK
F-3	1GNEK13ZX6J141006	2006 CHEVY TAHOE
522	94252000180	BOBCAT SE 52" MOWER
523	94252000168	BOBCAT SE 52" MOWER
524	94252001236	BOBCAT SE 52" MOWER (PARTS ONLY)
# 207	1G1ND52J53M559546	CHEVY MALIBU
	245260 (S/N)	CYCLONE BATWING FINISH MOWER 16" BLADE

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 15th day of April, 2025.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Motion was made by Councilman Strickland, seconded by Councilman Stainback and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2025.05 to officially declare the items as surplus and authorize the sale by electronic auction.

Consideration of Resolution Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing the Property to be Sold by Enterprise Fleet Management

Public Works Director Chalker presented Resolution No. 2025.06 requesting City

Council to declare the eleven vehicles as surplus and authorize the sale by Enterprise Fleet Management to realize the maximum value of the sale of those vehicles.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.06
Resolution Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing the
Property Be Sold by Enterprise Fleet Management
in accordance with NCGS 160A-266(a)

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Rapids City Council desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the City of Roanoke Rapids and dispose of said property in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Rapids City Council, has authorized the City Manager to declare surplus any personal property valued at less than \$30,000 for any one item or group of similar items, to set its fair market value, and to convey title to the property for the city, by public or private sale or exchanges. Surplus property is (a) property that is no longer needed for the conduct of City business and/or (b) property whose disposal would, based on sound property management principles and financial considerations, be in the best interests of the City. Prior to disposition of any individual item of property valued at more than \$10,000, the city manager shall report such proposed disposal to the City Council.

WHEREAS, the following items have been identified as being surplus to the needs of the City and disposal would, based on sound property management principles and fiscal considerations, be in the best interests of the City:

2015	Ford	Expedition	Fire 1	1FMJU1GT6FEF13422
2017	Ford	F-150	2022	1FTEX1E85HFA88834
2018	Ford	F-150	P129	1FTEX1CB0JFD00673
2018	Ford	F-150	Planning 166	1FTMF1CB3JFA64910
2018	Ford	F-150	PW301	1FTEX1CB4JFC81724
2015	Ford	F-250	P&R 629	1FT7W2B67FEB96086
2017	Ford	Explorer	Planning 165	1FM5K7B89HGB33236
2017	Ford	Utility Police Interceptor	P1	1FM5K8AR1HGB92734
2017	Ford	Utility Police Interceptor	P25	1FM5K8AR5HGB92736
2017	Ford	Utility Police Interceptor	P6	1FM5K8AR3HGB92735
2017	Ford	Utility Police Interceptor	P8	1FM5K8AR7HGB92737

WHEREAS, the necessary agreements with Enterprise Fleet Management are in place to utilize the vendor's services to yield the highest attainable sale price and facilitate disposal of the foregoing list of property provided that fair market value is secured; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roanoke Rapids City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager or her designee to sell the surplus property described above by means set forth in accordance with NCGS 160A-266 and consistent with procedures for surplus property disposal.

ADOPTED this 15th day of April 2025.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Mayor Doughtie asked if these were the vehicles they bought and confirmed that Enterprise would sell them for the City. Public Works Director Chalker replied yes, the City bought them some time ago and some have higher mileage on them. They fit into the slot that Enterprise is looking for in their market demands so staff feels it is the best place for the City to sell them. The funds from the sale will immediately come back to the City.

Motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2025.06 to officially declare the items as surplus property and authorize the property to be sold by Enterprise Fleet Management in accordance with NCGS 160A-266(a).

Consideration of Brightspeed Sponsorship Agreement

Parks & Recreation Director Daughtry reported they have been approached by Brightspeed about doing some sponsorships. Staff gave them several different choices of things, and they had an interest in the Emry Skate Park. Brightspeed desires to make a donation to help fund Emry Skate Park. The agreement which has been reviewed by Attorney Davis is enclosed in their packets. (On file in Clerk's Office) Brightspeed would like to donate \$15,000 in sponsorship and in return they request some naming rights to a portion of the skate park, recognition in some media outlets and the City would not accept sponsorships from competitors for a period of 10 years. She noted that it would not exclude the City from accepting funding for other projects at other places from competitors. She asked for City Council's approval so they can continue to move forward with the Emry Skate Park project.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant asked for clarification of the sponsorships for other types of events or projects.

Parks & Recreation Director Daughtry replied that it is just at Emry Skate Park for Brightspeed competitors such as other internet providers. This does not mean that another internet provider would not be able to sponsor something at Ledgerwood or Chockoyotte, for example.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant confirmed that if the skate park is successful but there are other projects that come along at Emry Park, the City could get sponsorships for those additional things that may come up but could not accept sponsorships from internet providers for those items.

Parks & Recreation Director Daughtry replied yes, because it specifically states in the agreement Emry Skate Park.

Attorney Davis called their attention to the exclusive categories on page 2 of the agreement which includes: Internet/Wi-Fi service providers; home and business telephone communication products and services; wireless telephone communication service providers, including but not limited to AT&T, Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile and Sprint.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant asked if it was for just the skate park or all Emry Park. Attorney Davis replied Emry Park.

Councilman Strickland asked what happens after the 10-year period, does it go up for bid.

Parks & Recreation Director Daughtry stated they would not necessarily do away with Brightspeed, but if there were additional things that needed to be done to the skate park, they could open it up to these companies as well. Attorney Davis added the exclusivity just expires.

Mayor Doughtie asked if it would preclude the City from getting monies from tourism. Parks & Recreation Director Daughtry replied no, nor would it from other companies, for example Dominion Power or any other company the City typically gets donations from; it is just Brightspeed's direct competitors.

Motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Bell and unanimously carried to approve the sponsorship agreement between the City of Roanoke Rapids and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Traynham recognized the Parks and Recreation department and all of the City departments. She stated they rely on the Parks and Recreation department for sponsorships and contributions from community organizations. They appreciate the generosity and those efforts to contribute to a community driven project.

She said since the department heads will provide some information tonight in addition to their written reports enclosed in their packets, she only had a few things to report. She highlighted the following:

- The City of Roanoke Rapids will recognize Good Friday this upcoming Friday and the offices will be closed this Friday in observance of that holiday.
- In a major project right now with our budgeting and finance operations. In the last couple of years City Council has approved funding to transfer from the old system to a new system, OpenGov. They will officially transfer over to the OpenGov platform at the end of this month. There is a lot going on and there are a lot of moving pieces. Staff are doing this while doing their other routine jobs and obligations. It has been over 10 years since the City switched over to a new system and they are really excited about it. Part of this fiscal year 2026 budget will be presented out of the new system in the next coming weeks. Training sessions have been completed as well.
- The NC League Municipalities recently released its memo on tax distributions and provided year-over-year analysis over changes in the revenue streams with projections extending into the next fiscal year. This document doesn't tell them exactly what the revenues are going to be. They have to interpret the graphic representation and the information that comes along with it and apply it to their local situation. Many revenue resources are impacted by population counts and some other things so they have to apply that analysis to their local situation to get an idea of what they can estimate the anticipated revenues will be based on those tax resources.
- They have received everything from the department heads on the budget as they in the middle of this OpenGov transition program although they are a little delayed in sharing it with them. They are still on schedule, but some of the overall themes from the requests from the departments fall into several different categories. Some of those overall themes have to do with aging infrastructure and different maintenance over time trying to keep up with physical needs. Others include impacts on user experience and safety, efficiency and operational improvements, financial constraints and prioritization, and then community benefit and engagement. Staff are working hard to look into all that,

but ultimately the revenues are going to dictate what the expenditures will be. Other things that need to be paid for they will have to find some alternative financing routes.

- An offer of employment was accepted for the Main Street Director position. The candidate will begin full-time by late June. There is a relocation involved so there will be some part time opportunities starting May 1st for the mandatory training program provided by the state's Main Street program.
- On Wednesday May 7th, the City will hold its mandatory open enrollment for employee benefits at Kirkwood Adams. They have received renewal rates from the insurance company. As expected, there are some increases, but they are working through those to make it as manageable as possible.
- Along with OpenGov, Human Resources is transitioning over to NeoGov as well. Human Resources and payroll along with the financial pieces will concurrently go live in the next month or two.
- The Public Works department continues leaf collection but asks the residents to bag their leaves. Loose leaf collection has ended for the season and will resume in the fall.
- The Fire department is testing hydrants throughout town to help ensure protection.
- Next week the library will have a craft on Tuesday, April 22nd at 4:30 p.m. It is a great opportunity for folks, especially the students that are on spring break next week.
- As mentioned before, the City desperately needs lifeguards for the upcoming summer season to operate the outdoor pool. Any interested persons need to contact either Human Resources or the Aquatic Center.
- Staff continue to solicit bids for the remediation efforts of the dilapidated building downtown. Staff solicited bids and one response was received but it was to decline on the opportunity. They going to have to cast the net out further to get an idea of the estimate of cost to remediate the unsafe conditions there at 2nd Street and Roanoke Avenue.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant asked City Manager Traynham if she had comments about the Police Department.

City Manager Traynham stated the Police department are answering calls and activities, but they are getting ready to transfer over to the eCourts system. There will be some electronic compliance. They had to buy some printers for the cars, but there will be some needs and they are assessing those needs to comply with that aspect of it.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant asked if they anticipate having that done by late April as indicated. City Manager Traynham replied the eCourts system starts in April.

Attorney Davis added he believes April 28th is the day when the Clerk's office is going to close. There is a period of about three days when they are going to be dark and not be doing anything, then they will reopen. He cannot remember if the reopen date is April 28th or if that is the go dark date. It is the biggest transition he has ever seen in the court system, and he has been practicing law for 17 years. He could only imagine what it was going to be like for law enforcement officers who are the first people to be kind of initiating criminal charges and everybody is going to have to use the system. He thinks it is going to end up being very good for the public and they are going to be very happy with the level of service that it provides, but it is going to be a transition. Everybody is going to have to have a little bit of patience with everyone as they kind of make that move. He has been to a bunch of training and is sure that the officers have as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant asked if they had the equipment they needed to start.

Attorney Davis stated he was not sure there is any real new equipment that is going to be there unless it is maybe an extra scanner or printer or something like that. It is mostly on the software side of the back end of things used when a charge is filed or when a magistrate sets a bond so that kind of integration of the local government systems here at the city and our local Police Department with the state systems like the magistrates have to use.

Finance Report

Finance Director Johnson reported for the month of March 2025, General Fund year to date receipts totaled \$16,533,435.83. General Fund year to date expenditures totaled \$14,177,406.25. As a result, year to date revenues exceeded expenditures by \$2,356,029.58. However, for the month that was negative so they need to be conscientious of spending because they still have the May Theatre payment to make as well as the administrative and operational requirements they need to pay for.

Department Updates

Public Works

Public Works Director Chalker reported the following:

- Asphalt resurfacing local contractor, Rightmyer Machine Rentals, started down

on 1st Street last Tuesday. They have excavated some of the problems in the center of the street to stabilize that. Once they have that stable then they will come back and resurface that street. It is much needed, because it has been a rough ride for people that live in that neighborhood.

- Public Works crews have been busy this week cutting grass and grooming the cemetery grounds getting it open for the spring and summer grass growing season. The street department workers have been at Fire Station 1 assisting an outside vendor with preparing to construct a new concrete entrance into the back of the fire station. Once finished this new concrete structure will much better support the heavier fire engines that they run and up down the roads now. The asphalt had become weak, and it started to give in some.
- Leaf season had an extension due to some weather events, but it has ended so they are repeatedly asking citizens to bag or box their leaves or their clippings. They are picking up bags at a high volume right now and getting them off the streets from in front of people's homes.
- On Thursday, April 17th they will be sending three of their trucks to Manning Elementary School for career day. They will send the sweeper, a trash truck and a bucket truck over for the kids to check them out.

Mayor Doughtie asked if the money for paving was in the budget. Public Works Director Chalker replied there was \$280,000 in the budget and they were taking the Powell Bill allocation and spending it directly on the streets. They have made a commitment at this point to take Powell Bill funds each year and spend it directly on the streets. There are some years inevitably with the shape of the city's streets where they were going to need more than what the Powell Bill gives the City. That is a good start as opposed to before they might do \$80,000 or \$100,000 worth, but in today's economy \$100,000 is not a lot of asphalt.

Mayor Doughtie stated he understood that but generally when they have to spend money that is not in the budget, they have to have a budget amendment, is that not correct. Public Works Director Chalker replied that is correct, but this was part of the budget.

Mayor Doughtie asked if the driveway at the Fire department was an emergency or was that in the budget. Public Works Director Chalker replied that was budgeted funds that Fire Chief Patrick had in his budget. He assured them that anytime they need to go outside that budget, they will be up here asking for more.

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Director Daughtry presented a report of the department's Fall and Winter programs and events from September 2024 – February 2025 (On file in Clerk's Office). She highlighted the following:

Weekly/Monthly Programs

- Aqua Zumba at the Aquatic Center
- Story Time at the Library

Athletics

- Field Traffic Hours – 686.5
- Includes: soccer, travel softball, Fall baseball, flag football, tackle football, youth basketball and adult basketball.

Seasonal and Special Programming

- Christmas Parade
- Christmas at the Canal
- Christmas on the Avenue
- Halloween events
- Roanoke Canal 5K
- Ping Pong Tournament

Parks and Maintenance

- Maintained 115 acres of parks/facilities
- 162 maintenance requests were completed
- 44 Kirkwood events and setups
- Replaced the pool pump and 2 pool heaters
- Replaced tires on the Senior Center van and bus
- Painted the multipurpose room at TJ Davis
- Replaced half of the foggy windows at Kirkwood and all of the foggy windows at TJ Davis
- Painted the hallway and banquet hall at Kirkwood
- Replaced HVAC unit at Kirkwood
- Replaced 2 HVAC units at the library
- Cleaned out the maintenance area behind TJ Davis
- Installed equipment shelter at TJ Davis

She noted they completed all the projects they were given money for in this budget. They are currently working on replacing score boards at Chockoyotte and Ledgerwood. They are supposed to be replaced this Friday and Saturday at both

locations. For the old tennis court at Rochelle Park, three pickleball courts are in the process of being completed in that area.

Impact

- 112,550 contacts (interactions with people through all of our different programs and athletics
 - 35% at TJ Davis Recreation Center
 - 7% at Kirkwood Adams
 - 9% at Jo Storey Senior Center
 - 4% at the Lloyd Andrews building
 - 4% at the Chris Wicker Aquatic Center
 - 13% with athletics
 - 8% at the Chichester Memorial Library
 - 13% at the Roanoke Canal Museum and Trail
 - 4% was the Christmas Parade
 - 3% at the Chaloner Recreation Center
- 357 hours rented at Kirkwood Adams
- 191 Reservations – TJ Davis, Parks, Kirkwood, Aquatics, Chaloner and Lloyd Andrews

Non-City Resources

- The financial resources from the beginning of the fiscal year through February received \$228,487.17. This is a combination of monetary donations, donated labor sponsorships, occupancy tax and grants.
- Volunteer hours – They've had 5,829 hours. In North Carolina the value of a volunteer in 2023 was listed as \$31.64 per hour and that equates to \$184,429.56.
- Combined, their non-city resources through February total \$412,916.73.

Parks & Recreation Director Daughtry expressed her appreciation to staff. She stands here and tells them the information, but they have a lot of staff that work very hard. She thanked the full-time staff, part-time staff and all the volunteers that have helped with all the programs and athletics as well as the local businesses that contribute through sponsorships. She also thanked the Halifax County Convention and Visitors Bureau for the Occupancy Tax they receive.

She also called attention to the copy of the brochure for camps coming up this summer that Ashley had been working on which have been finalized. They also received flyers for the archery academy that will be on April 25th.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant asked when the pickleball courts would be available at

Rochelle Park.

Parks & Recreation Director Daughtry replied they received a call today and after the asphalt was laid, they had to wait 30 days for it to cure. They are making plans to come and start marking that off and lining it with the paint. It will be completed before June 30th as required by the Halifax County Convention and Visitors Bureau, but I don't have a specific date; weather can change things as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant asked if they anticipated providing any training for people in the community that would like to learn how to play the sport.

Parks & Recreation Director Daughter replied yes. They are planning to have an app for people who want to play so they can sign up and know when there are time slots. As they have it open this summer then they can do some clinics and that sort of thing to help people learn. She added there are a lot of people that come to the Senior Center who are not 55 and older to use the court. It is the only court that is designated for pickleball. They do have other places that the tennis courts are lined, but the one at the Senior has the right height of the net and that sort of thing. She believes it is going to be popular once they can get it completed. She also noted they have a family in the town that played a lot of tennis when they grew up and they are going to be donating benches for the pickleball court. They are glad that area is going to be revitalized and so they wanted to participate. She thinks it is going to be nice with the occupancy tax funding and some other things they hope to do in the future to make that park better.

Police

Police Chief Wiggins acknowledged the officers at the Police Department. They are doing a lot even though they have a couple of vacancies that they are working to fill. Quite a few are putting in a lot of time and he wanted them to know that he sees it, the community sees it and he knows they all see it too.

He stated they have the following community events coming up:

- Citizens on Patrol overseen by Captain Williams had a fish fry fundraiser scheduled for last Friday. Unfortunately, due to the weather, they have rescheduled it to May 2nd.
- May is Safe Kids Month – They have a hot car display that will be posted up around the city throughout the month to bring awareness to the importance of leaving children in a car and for some their animals as well.
- On April 26th the Safe Kids in conjunction with the Halifax County Narcotics and Gang Task Force which the department has two officers assigned will be conducting a medicine drop at Walmart.

- In June they will have the Police Camp (details will come later).
- The first week of August they have National Night Out which is in the stages of being planned.

Chief Wiggins stated they invite the community to be a part of these things. They would love to continue to foster relationships with those in the community, not just when they have to respond for enforcement actions. They want to assure people that they not there just for enforcement, but they are there as brothers and sisters who live and work in this community.

Fire

Fire Chief Patrick stated this is a busy time of the year for the fire service. Coming out of winter, some may think things would start calming down for them, but this is a time of the year they try to get a lot done before it gets too hot. They tested all the fire hoses on each truck. Last month they tested over 8,000 feet of fire hose, some of that was some of the newer hose they received with the most recent grant from FEMA. They have also started testing hydrants. He explained this year the procedure is a little bit different. Hopefully they will not be stirring the water up quite as much as they have in the past. They have been working with the water department for the last three or four years to go to a new system which is called water modeling. When they do that, it keeps the Fire Department from having to flow so much water out of the hydrants which therefore does not stir up the water quite as badly. This prevents so many complaints about dirty water where citizens are washing clothes and messing up the white clothes. That is something that by them working alongside the Sanitary District they were able to get to help out in the community. When ISO comes that is going to help the department tremendously too so they should be able to receive 100% credit in their grading process, which in the past they have not been able to do so.

He reported the second engine had arrived in Rocky Mount. It has been there for about two weeks now. Unfortunately, they still do not have a good date on when it will be in Roanoke Rapids because they have five other trucks ahead of them at this point. He reminded them during that time frame when they ordered the trucks, it was a lot of other municipalities and fire departments ordering them as well. He said they will keep them updated on the projected arrival. He estimates it will probably be towards the middle to end of May.

He announced the annual Veteran's Breakfast is coming up on May 2nd. He reported there were up to 60 plus veterans that already registered with us. Last year was the third and biggest year with a little over 100 veterans. He invited them to come out. He said it is something they never knew would take off as much as it has. He is pleased with the amount of support they get from the community, the business

community, and individuals in the community that are helping to recognize these veterans.

Planning

Planning & Development Director Anderson highlighted the following activities in the department:

- Stateside Landing located along E. Littleton Road consisting of three multi-family apartment buildings, a community building and playground is making great strides.
 - Sheathing of all structures is almost completed and will begin actively working on rough ins of other trades.
 - Development has an overall building valuation of \$7.4 million.
 - The same developer and contractor are scouting another property in Roanoke Rapids. The property will be adjacent to Stateside Landing on Hwy. 158. They are proposing a 60-unit multifamily apartment complex with a community building and playground. They are in the first stages of getting funding approval. It will consist of 3-, 2-, and 1-bedroom apartments and it is income restricted. If funded, it will be named The Brookfield Point.
- Rivers Edge Subdivision – Canal Walk
 - As of Friday, April 11, 2025, 15 sets of residential building plans were submitted for review.
 - Based on what staff has reviewed thus far, the homes range from 2,200 sq. ft. to 4,000 sq. ft. and have garage attached.
 - Estimated valuation for the proposed construction of all 15 dwellings is \$7.1 million.
- Cross Creek Subdivision
 - Winmore LLC – owner/developer of 71 proposed townhomes has requested a 90-day extension on bond for roadway improvements on Hwy. 125 (\$250,000 bond) and Cross Creek Parkway with allowance to start construction. NCDOT has agreed to the request, stipulating that no occupancy certificates should be issued until the bond is posted. Planning staff agrees to terms and NCDOT is drafting the agreement.
 - Staff's estimation for the total building value of the construction of the proposed 71 townhomes is \$10.8 million.
- Express Oil Change (Located behind KFC on Premier Blvd.)
 - Inspectors have completed underslab, electrical and plumbing inspections and are working on sewer connections.

- Laurel Glen Assisted Living Facility – 115 Clearfield Drive
 - Submitted renovation plans for the building with minor alterations such as repaving parking lot and dumpster relocation.
 - Plans have been approved – permit issuance is expected any day.
 - Total project valuation is approximately \$3.1 million

Mayor Doughtie said he believes that totals \$25 million and asked how much of that will the City get tax monies off of. Planning & Development Director Anderson replied she was not sure, but she could find out.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant asked how many apartments would be at Stateside Landing. Planning & Development Director Anderson replied 64 units consisting of 3-, 2-, and 1-bedroom units.

Councilman Bell asked if they were income restricted as well. She replied yes, there was going to be a threshold amount on how much a person makes. They may accept vouchers, but it is not limited to just vouchers. The proposed complex, if funded, will be on a slightly higher scale so those rents may be more adjustable. The developer wants to address the gap where some people cannot afford to buy a house and then there is Section 8 housing. They would like to get some good quality housing for those people who fall into that gap.

City Manager Traynham added the income qualifications are also dependent upon the family size and how many people are working. It is supposed to help lower to mid-range income and make it affordable. The city hasn't had a family housing development by the tax credit program in about 20 years. This is a positive sign for the community and needed. She added these tax credit developments are typically taxable properties unlike some affordable housing categories.

Other Business

Attorney Davis said this topic has come up recently. He was speaking about the New Town Resources building which is located at W. 3rd Street. Originally, the building was constructed in the late 1990s or early 2000s as an agreement between different entities, but it is City property. There were some limitations on how the property could be used. The City had to give certain county and state agencies access to it. Those have all expired. Currently, there are three spaces in the building. One being occupied by CADA and one by Halifax County with their WIC Program. The third space is vacant but was formerly the Boys & Girls Club. There is some interest from the County in expanding their footprint in the building to expand the WIC Program. The City has

not really used that property, essentially it is leased out and has been used for voting by the Board of Elections.

He reported there has been some interest from Halifax County about potentially offering to purchase the property. He wanted to make City Council aware of that but there have not been any numbers put back and forth yet. He believes the County attorney has put it on the County Commissioners' radar as well.

Attorney Davis said there are some discussions about being able to put a valuation on the property and then bringing it to City Council to see if there is any interest. It is up to City Council what they decide to do because it is the City's property. The City does not house any city offices there, but they do charge rent for those organizations that lease it.

He said this discussion was motivated by the GASB changes and how the City lists their liabilities while taking a look at all City property that is rented to make sure they were getting fair market value. A lot of the leases have not been looked at in a very long time. If the County ended up purchasing the property, they would be talking about a transfer between two local governments so they would not have to go through the process like with a normal, private sale where they would solicit bids. He said this is something City Council needs to consider, think about and discuss among themselves then share their thoughts with him and the City Manager. This is just a discussion, it is not anything anyone is committed to yet, but there is definite interest there.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant questioned if the Police Department was interested in part of the building at one time.

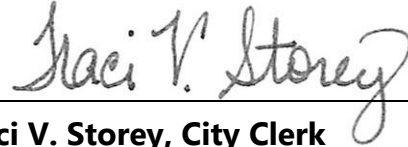
Attorney Davis replied originally it was contemplated as being a satellite station there, but he was not aware of any equipment being housed there. City Manager Traynham added when Chief Guyant was here, there were some discussions or ideas shared, but they did not come to fruition concerning setting up occupancy in that location.

Mayor Doughtie said it came up years ago that they got grant money for the building and at that time it was said if the City sold it, it might come back on them. He suggested researching that.

Attorney Davis replied he looked at the deeds and all that expired in 2020 or 2021. There were some limitations and the City had to allow certain organizations to be in there until that point because of the agreements and grants used to construct the building originally.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Traci V. Storey", written in dark ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Approved by Council Action on: May 20, 2025