**17504**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on the above date at 5:15 p.m. at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

 Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

 Suetta S. Scarbrough)

 Carol H. Cowen)

 Wayne Smith)

 Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager

 Gilbert Chichester, City Attorney

 Lisa B. Vincent, MMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

 Kathy Kearney, Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Manager

 MeLinda Hite, Finance Director

 Larry Chalker, Public Works Director

 John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director

 Andy Jackson, Interim Police Chief

 Stacy Coggins, Fire Chief

 Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director

 Christina Caudle, Main Street/Development Director

 Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

 Ernest C. Bobbitt, Council Member

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

With no one indicating a conflict of interest with any of the items on the agenda, motion was made by ­­­­­­­­­­­Councilwoman Cowen, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for December 2, 2014.

Mr. Terry L. Buffaloe of 316 Chockoyotte Street, Roanoke Rapids, NC read the following two prepared statements which he presented to Council members:

**17505**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

***After Hours Security Measures in Chockoyotte Park***

*Submitted by Terry L. Buffaloe*

*Several of my neighbors on Chockoyotte Street have mentioned the after-hours activities going on in Chockoyotte Park. The activities vary, but they are fairly regular. Cars driving in the park at night are the most frequent violation. Fast food trash discarded on the ground, used condoms thrown about, dirty diapers and waste (sometimes human). Cars have been seen racing and making “doughnuts”. I’ve seen as well as heard some of these activities. Many cars speed into and out of the park.*

*We believe that the simplest solution is to put a chain across the entranceway after closing time for the park. Also, cars speeding up and down Chockoyotte Street is a concern of everyone on this street. We would like to see 2-3 speed bumps along this corridor.*

*While I bring these matters to you myself, I could get signatures or bring a delegation of concerned citizens if it would please the Council or demonstrate the magnitude of the sentiments of local residents.*

*Please give these matters your careful consideration.*

***Pedestrian Traffic/Safety on***

***Julian Allsbrook in Roanoke Rapids***

*Submitted by Terry L. Buffaloe*

*This is a request/suggestion to install sidewalks, crosswalks and pedestrian operated traffic light controls on Julian Allsbrook Rd. from I-95 to the Food Lion entrance on both sides of the street.*

*As of now, walking this road is not an attractive proposition, and crossing the road on foot is quite a gamble. Many buses stop along this route bringing commerce to the area. These accommodations would improve the appeal of walking to the many stores and fast food restaurants on this road.*

*The pedestrian controlled crossing lights would only be used as needed by people desiring to cross the road so disrupting the flow of traffic would be minimal. A crossing light would be ideal at 158 & Premier Blvd., 158 & Chockoyotte St., as well as the entranceway at Food Lion Shopping Plaza.*

*Please give this request your careful consideration.*

**17506**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

City Manager Scherer pointed out that he will address some of Mr. Buffaloe’s concerns during his report later in the meeting.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to approve the November 18, 2014 Council Minutes.

Mr. Gregory T. Redman, CPA, presented the Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2014 *(a copy of which is on file in the Finance Director’s Office)*. He noted that the City ended the fiscal year with an undesignated fund balance of $4.1 million (27% of total general fund expenditures). He stated there were no findings or questioned costs in the audit, and budget amendments were appropriately made. Mr. Redman reported on the strong tax collection rate of 98.7%.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Cowen, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to accept the Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2014.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated the way the economy has been, he would like to thank Finance Director Hite and her staff for controlling some of these expenses.

Councilman Smith thanked the staff for staying under budget. He stated both the City Manager and staff have done a good job, and he appreciates them making our jobs easier.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated he feels that is the consensus of all the Council members.

Ms. Cathy Scott, Executive Director of the Halifax County Economic Development Commission, stated she listened to the presentation of the audit and it sounds like the City is doing a good job. She stated she would like to

**17507**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

stress how important Roanoke Rapids is to Halifax County. She stated Roanoke Rapids is the economic hub of the County and was listed as number 27 of 100 top micropolitan areas in the State.

Ms. Scott presented a PowerPoint presentation on statistical information and economic development activities in the City and County *(a copy of which is on file in the Clerk’s Office)*.

Following the presentation, Ms. Scott stated she has one of the best boards in Halifax County and Vice Chairman Rick Gilstrap is here tonight. She stated our Chairman would say the reason why we are having success is because we are all working together.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee thanked Ms. Scott for her presentation, and especially for bringing good news.

Mr. Rick Gilstrap stated he has been on the board for a number of years representing Roanoke Rapids, and offered to provide input to the board on behalf of the City. He stated City Manager Scherer and Mayor Doughtie also represent Roanoke Rapids. Mr. Gilstrap stated we have a great asset in Cathy Scott who does a superb job. Quoting Chairman Avent, Mr. Gilstrap stated “working together works”.

City Manager Scherer stated according to City Council policy, all Closed Session Minutes are sealed until such time as public inspection would not frustrate the purpose of the Closed Session. He stated City Attorney Chichester has reviewed the sets of Closed Session Minutes listed in the following memorandum and determined that they may be unsealed:

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Lisa B. Vincent, City Clerk/s/

DATE: November 20, 2014

**RE: UNSEALING CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

**17508**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

According to City Council policy, all Closed Session Minutes are sealed until such time as public inspection would not frustrate the purpose of the Closed Session.

City Attorney Chichester has reviewed the following sets of Closed Session Minutes (previously approved by Council) and determined that they may be unsealed:

 **Minute Book Page No.** **Date of Meeting**

 12445 November 13, 2001

 13673 September 13, 2005

 13754 November 8, 2005

 13777 November 29, 2005

 13803 & 13804 January 10, 2006

 13879 February 28, 2006

 13889 March 14, 2006

 13922 April 25, 2006

 14088 July 25, 2006

 14138 September 12, 2006

 14157 & 14158 October 10, 2006

 14188 November 14, 2006

 14232 December 12, 2006

 14257 January 23, 2007

 14320 March 27, 2007

 14496 & 14497 July 10, 2007

 14506 July 24, 2007

 14513 August 14, 2007

 14523 August 28, 2007

 14529 September 6, 2007

 14653 February 19, 2008

 14789 July 8, 2008

 14968 March 20, 2009

 15187 September 22, 2009

 15331 - 15335 March 2, 2010

 15369 - 15372 March 25, 2010

 15384 & 15385 April 6, 2010

 15406 April 13, 2010

 15423 - 15429 April 26, 2010

 15447 - 15451 May 4, 2010

 15486 & 15487 May 11, 2010

 15499 & 15500, 15502 - 15504 May 27, 2010

 15542 June 8, 2010

 15574 & 15575 July 6, 2010

 15601 - 15603 August 3, 2010

 15627 & 15628 August 10, 2010

 15676 - 15679 September 28, 2010

Thank you.

cc: City Manager

 City Attorney

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to unseal the Closed Session Minutes as listed in the foregoing memorandum dated November 20, 2014 from City Clerk Vincent.

**17509**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

Public Works Director Chalker stated items included in a resolution presented to Council for consideration have been identified as being surplus to the needs of the City. He stated staff is requesting Council adopt the resolution officially declaring the items as surplus, and authorizing the sale by electronic auction (GovDeals). Public Works Director Chalker referred to the following which is a more detailed list of the items:

**Surplus #4**

**11/18/2014**

**Equipment** **Model#** **Serial#/VIN#** **Mileage**

**1986 Dodge Ram 50** (Small Pickup

Truck) (P-63), gray interior, dash ok,

Automatic, has bed liner, engine has

1 dead cylinder (no compression) RAM 50 JB7FL54E7HP023766 61,845

**Generac Corp Generator**  MEP-0154A

**Sterling 2002 Trash Truck** (Old

#351) 3116 caterpillar diesel

engine, allison transmission, has

oil/hydraulic leaks, operational

when taken out of service 5015585 2FZHATAK62AJ57947 74,150

**1995 Red Nissan Truck** (Old

#401), cranks, gray cloth interior,

5 speed, driver’s seat has small

hole, no heat, 2.4 liter, 4cyl engine,

catalytic converter stopped up,

transmission work NISSAN 1N6SD11S9SC407915 53,848

**2002 Ford Crown Victoria Police**

**Car** (P-93), parts car, bad trans-

mission, condition of engine

unknown FORD 2FAFP71W32X118250 84,920

**1995 Nissan Truck** (P-624),

engine runs, transmission ok, 5

speed, 2.4 liter,4cyl engine,

cracked windshield, speedometer

glass missing, engine runs NISSAN 1N6SD11S1RC312288 109,000

**Playground Equipment, Modular**

**Unit,** 20+ years old, in good

condition, needs to be cleaned/

painted, structurally sound, buyer

responsible for breakdown and

removal, fits in a 50 x 40 area,

buyer must leave area in good

condition, all questions: contact

Garry Moore at 252-533-2847

**3 Bay Swing Set**, 6 swings, 1

bent leg, interchangeable seats

**17510**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

Councilman Smith asked about the lights at the Theatre that were discussed several months ago.

Public Works Director Chalker explained that we have to wait for permission from Bank of America before we can dispose of anything in the Theatre. He stated we now have to wait until the right time to get in the Theatre to take the lights down. He stated there are shows booked through the holidays.

City Manager Scherer pointed out that if we do sell the lights, Bank of America requires that the revenue be paid to them toward the debt.

Councilman Smith stated he has no problem with that.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

**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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Item | Serial/VIN Number |
| 1986 Dodge Ram 50 (Small Pickup Truck--P-63) | JB7FL54E7HP023766 |
| Generac Corp. Generator (Model # MEP-0154A) | N/A |
| 2002 Sterling Trash Truck (Old # 351) (Model # 5015585)  | 2FZHATAK62AJ57947 |
| 1995 Nissan Truck (Old # 401) | 1N6SD11S9SC407915 |
| 2002 Ford Crown Victoria Police Car (P-93) | 2FAFP71W32X118250 |
| 1995 Nissan Pickup Truck (# 624)  | 1N6SD11S1RC312288 |
| Playground Equipment (Modular Unit) | N/A |
| Three (3) Bay Swing Set | N/A |

 **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

**17511**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

 **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 2nd day of December, 2014.

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ATTEST: Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Lisa B. Vincent, City Clerk

Public Works Director Chalker reported that during the flood of 2012, Rochelle Pond received major damages in several areas. He stated one of the last remaining areas has turned out to be the most serious and costly. He stated photos were included in the agenda packet.

Public Works Director Chalker indicated that the outfall pipe - the pipe that drains water from the pond - was originally damaged in this flood. He stated as time has progressed, this situation has worsened with pipe separation and very severe erosion. He stated just in the past three (3) months, this situation has reached critical condition in that the erosion has happened at a faster rate and sections of pipe keep falling off, causing even further erosion.

Public Works Director Chalker stated our engineer, Nick Rightmyer with DM2 Engineering who is here tonight, has completed the second revised design for repairing this erosion and bringing stability back to the outfall system at the pond. He pointed out that the second revision was made by our request to reduce the cost of the project ($40,000 less).

Public Works Director Chalker requested that we earmark recent payments of DSR funds as distributed by the State to pay for this project, and that Council adopt a budget amendment for $90,948.00 with a 10% contingency ($9,095.00), bringing the total to $100,043.00.

**17512**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

Councilwoman Scarbrough stated this is critical to the structure of the dam.

Public Works Director Chalker stated that is correct. He stated it is eroding toward the core of the dam.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked if the Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District has some interest in the dam.

City Manager Scherer stated he has spoken with Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District CEO Dan Brown because they have a water line running through the pond. He explained that he asked Mr. Brown if he would make a request for funding from DENR. He stated Mr. Brown said he would try but he did not think DENR would see this as an emergency.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated the cost is $40,000.00 less than originally estimated.

Public Works Director Chalker stated that is correct.

Councilman Smith asked what would happen if we drain the pond.

Public Works Director Chalker stated we would have a big body of mud. He stated we have spent a tremendous amount of money dredging the silt from the pond. He stated the pond would eventually return to a natural basin creek. Public Works Director Chalker pointed out that one function of the pond is to control storm water runoff. He stated it also collects silt and trash which we remove.

Councilman Smith asked if this is the last amount of money we will need to spend on Rochelle Pond.

Public Works Director Chalker stated yes, for the time being. He stated we would continue to perform maintenance on the pond. He did point out that there are some recreational activities around the pond. He stated kids feed the ducks and learn how to fish.

Councilman Smith stated all of the ducks are gone.

**17513**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

Public Works Director Chalker stated they come and go.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to adopt the following ordinance:

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS:**

**SECTION 1.** The following additional amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of City Government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, according to the following schedules:

**SCHEDULE A – GENERAL FUND (OPERATING)**

Transfer to Capital Outlay $100,043

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL FUND OPERATING TOTAL $100,043**

**SCHEDULE B – GENERAL FUND (CAPITAL)**

Rochelle Pond Project $100,043

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL FUND CAPITAL TOTAL $100,043**

**SECTION 2.** The following additional revenues and reductions in appropriations are available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, in order to meet the foregoing appropriations, according to the following schedules:

**SCHEDULE C – GENERAL FUND (OPERATING)**

Flooding – (N.C. Division of Emergency Management) $100,043

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**GENERAL FUND OPERATING TOTAL $100,043**

**SCHEDULE D– GENERAL FUND (CAPITAL)**

Transfer from General Fund $100,043

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL FUND CAPITAL TOTAL $100,043**

**17514**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

City Manager Scherer reported that the swearing in ceremony for the new Police Chief and Deputy Police Chief will be held on Monday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall. He stated there will be a short reception afterwards and he encouraged the Council members to attend.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Police Department will take 22 children shopping this coming Saturday. He stated they will meet at 11:00 a.m. at Chick-fil-A for lunch and then go to Wal-Mart to shop. He stated City Council members are invited to attend.

City Manager Scherer reported that all patrolmen are equipped with body cameras. He stated we are taking the lead in this program.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Parks & Recreation Department is busy with a lot of upcoming activities. He stated the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held this Thursday here at the Andrews Building with refreshments at 6:00 p.m. and the tree lighting and Christmas carols in the parking lot at 6:30 p.m. He stated the Christmas Parade will be held on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. He stated the department currently has about 100 entries and 4 marching bands.

City Manager Scherer also reported that the Aquatic Center repairs are on schedule with a target completion date of mid-February.

City Manager Scherer stated in response to comments by Mr. Buffaloe earlier in the meeting that the Parks & Recreation Department will be installing steel security gates at Chockoyotte and Emry Parks, and at Chaloner Recreation Center. He stated they hope this will alleviate some of the concerns. He stated the Police Department has also conducted traffic sweeps to try to catch speeders on Chockoyotte Street.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Public Works Department is very busy with leaf season.

**17515**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

City Manager Scherer reported that Main Street Roanoke Rapids will have a Christmas Tree Trimming Contest this Thursday evening in conjunction with the Tree Lighting Ceremony. He stated eight trees were donated as part of a fundraising activity and they will be judged Thursday evening. He stated Main Street Roanoke Rapids is also hosting activities along the Avenue on Saturday that will include a visit from Santa from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the 1020 Pub.

City Manager Scherer reported that BARC will host the annual holiday luncheon for employees on Wednesday, December 10 at 11:30 a.m. at Kirkwood Adams Community Center. He stated the City Council is invited to attend.

City Manager Scherer stated Finance Director Hite and crew have done an excellent job with the City’s finances.

Councilman Smith asked if it will take until mid-February to fix the Aquatic Center. He stated he thought it would be completed by the end of January.

Parks & Recreation Director Simeon explained that the delivery time for the unit is 8 to 10 weeks and then it will have to be installed.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked Human Resources Manager Kearney to explain the acronym BARC and its function.

Human Resources Manager Kearney explained that BARC stands for “Benevolent, Awards & Recognition Committee” and it is funded by employee donations. She stated they do things such as help employees in times of need, such as illness and death. She stated they also recognize employee service.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated this is a good committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee recognized newly appointed Police Chief Chuck Hasty in the audience, and congratulated him on his appointment.

Mr. Hasty stated he looks forward to working with the City and citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee also congratulated Interim Police Chief Andy Jackson on his promotion to Deputy Police Chief.

**17516**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**December 2, 2014**

Interim Police Chief Jackson stated it has been a blessing to serve the past four months as Interim Chief. He stated he looks forward to continuing to contribute and serve in whatever capacity needed.

City Manager Scherer stated Andy has done an outstanding job as Interim Chief.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to adjourn.

 

 1/6/15