***17950***

***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***September 1, 2015***

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.

 Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

 Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

 Ernest C. Bobbitt)

 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

 Leigh Etheridge, Finance Director

 Chuck Hasty, Police Chief

 Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director

 Larry Chalker, Public Works Director

 John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director

 Stacy Coggins, Fire Chief

 Christina Caudle, Main Street Director

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

There being no conflict of interest with any of the items on the agenda, motion was made by Councilwoman Cowen, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for September 1, 2015 as presented.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to approve the August 18, 2015 Council Minutes.

Planning & Development Director Lasky reviewed the following staff report with Council:

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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***September 1, 2015***

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Joseph Scherer, City Manager

FROM: Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director/s/

DATE: August 24, 2015

**RE: Public Hearing and Street Closing Order for Closure of Barrett Street**

The Roanoke Rapids Graded School District is requesting the formal closure of the Barrett Street 60-foot wide right-of-way that extends from Park Avenue to Virginia Avenue. ***A map of the right-of-way is attached and marked Exhibit #1.*** Currently, the right-of-way is paved and generally used as primary street frontage access to Manning Elementary School.

On August 4, 2015, the City Council adopted a Resolution of Intent to close the subject right-of-way. In accordance with NCGS 160A-299, the September 1, 2015 public hearing was advertised and notices were provided to abutting property owners.

Notice of the public hearing for the proposed closure of Barrett Street was posted with signage at the intersections of Park Avenue and Virginia Avenue.

Upon adoption of the Order, the street will become private property of abutting property owners, divided to the centerline of the right-of-way.

***Please refer to the attached Street Closing Order (Resolution No. 2015.05).***

**Requested Action**

**1. Open and conduct a public hearing on a request to receive public comments concerning the intent to close the Barrett Street right-of-way.**

**2. Receive comments from the public.**

**3. Close the public hearing.**

**4. Consider a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015.05 ordering the closing of the 60- foot wide right-of-way of Barrett Street extending 710 feet from Park Avenue to Virginia Avenue.**

The following is the certification of mailing and posting requirements:

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Lisa B. Vincent, MMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

Date: August 24, 2015

***17952***

***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***September 1, 2015***

**Re: CERTIFICATION OF MAILING & POSTING REQUIREMENTS–Closing of 60-Foot Wide Right-of-Way of Barrett Street Extending 710 Feet from Park Avenue to Virginia Avenue**

The following persons owning property within 100 feet of the proposed closing of the 60-foot wide right-of-way of Barrett Street extending 710 feet from Park Avenue to Virginia Avenue, as shown on the county tax records, were notified on August 5, 2015 by certified mail of the public hearing to be held on September 1, 2015. Such notification also included a copy of the Resolution of Intent adopted by City Council on August 4, 2015.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **MAILING ADDRESS** |
| James K. Hale | P. O. Box 1094, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870 |
| Roanoke Rapids Graded School District | 536 Hamilton Street, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870 |

In addition, notices were posted on the applicable street right-of-way as required by G.S. 160A-299.

 8/24/2015 Lisa B. Vincent /s/

 Date Lisa B. Vincent, City Clerk

A public hearing having been advertised and proper notices having been given according to law, Mayor Doughtie opened the public hearing for comments.

There being no one to speak, Mayor Doughtie declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to adopt the following Street Closing Order (Resolution No. 2015.05):

**Resolution No. 2015.05**

**STREET CLOSING ORDER**

**A Resolution Ordering the Closing of the 60-Foot Wide Right-of-Way of**

**Barrett Street Extending 710 Feet from Park Avenue to Virginia Avenue**

**WHEREAS**, on the 4th day of August, 2015, the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids directed the City Clerk to publish the Resolution of Intent of the Roanoke Rapids City Council to consider closing the 60-foot wide right-of-way of Barrett Street extending 710 feet from Park Avenue to Virginia Avenue in the *Roanoke Rapids Daily and Sunday Herald* newspaper once each week for four successive weeks, such resolution advising the public that a meeting would be conducted in the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall on September 1, 2015; and

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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***September 1, 2015***

**WHEREAS**, the Roanoke Rapids City Council on the 4th day of August, 2015, ordered the City Clerk to notify all persons owning property abutting on that portion of the right-of-way, as shown on the county tax records, by registered or certified mail, enclosing with such notification a copy of the Resolution of Intent; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Clerk has advised the City Council that she sent a letter to each of the abutting property owners advising them of the day, time and place of the meeting, enclosing a copy of the Resolution of Intent, and advising the abutting property owners that the question as to closing the 60-foot wide right-of-way of Barrett Street extending 710 feet from Park Avenue to Virginia Avenue would be acted upon, said letters having been sent by registered or certified mail; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Clerk has advised the City Council that adequate notices were posted on the applicable right-of-way as required by G.S. 160A-299; and

**WHEREAS**, after full and complete consideration of the matter and after having granted full and complete opportunity for all interested persons to appear and register any objections that they might have with respect to the closing of said right-of-way in the public hearing held on September 1, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, it now appears to the satisfaction of the City Council that the closing of said right-of-way is not contrary to the public interest, and that no individual owning property, either abutting the right-of-way or in the vicinity of the right-of-way or in the subdivision in which the right-of-way is located, will as a result of the closing be thereby deprived of a reasonable means of ingress and egress to his property;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, subject to the reservation of all public and private easements pursuant to G.S. 160A-299(f), including the right of maintenance, as they exist at the time of adoption of this resolution, and subject to the utility easements as indicated on Exhibit #1 attached, the 60-foot wide right-of-way of Barrett Street extending 710 feet from Park Avenue to Virginia Avenue is hereby ordered closed, and all right, title, and interest that may be vested in the public to said area for right-of-way purposes is hereby released and quitclaimed to the abutting property owners in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 160A-299.

The Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute quitclaim deeds or other necessary documents in order to evidence vesting of all right, title and interest in those persons owning lots or parcels of land adjacent to the right-of-way, such title, for the width of the abutting land owned by them, to extend to the centerline of the herein closed right-of-way (with provision for

reservation of easements to the City of Roanoke Rapids for utility purposes) in accordance with the provision of G.S. 160A-299(c).

The City Clerk is hereby ordered and directed to file in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Halifax County a certified copy of this resolution and order.

Upon motion duly made by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and duly seconded by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the above resolution was duly adopted by the City Council at a meeting held on the 1st day of September, 2015, in the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***September 1, 2015***

Upon call for a vote, the following Council Members voted in the affirmative:

and the following Council Members voted in the negative:

**ADOPTED** this the 1st day of September, 2015.

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

 Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

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

 Lisa B. Vincent, City Clerk

City Manager Scherer reported that Main Street Director Caudle has made arrangements with the UNC School of Government to have a team of three graduate students assigned to work on a market research project for the Main Street District. He explained that the research study will focus on the feasibility of economic development projects in the District. He stated the study will include a parcel analysis, a market analysis and a financial analysis. He pointed out that this comes at no charge to either the City or the Main Street Roanoke Rapids organization. He stated the student group will work on their project all this semester at least, and give a presentation on it in the spring.

City Manager Scherer reported that the final “Fridays in the Park” concert was last Friday and was well attended. He stated Police Officer Duane Daniels became a minor social media celebrity when a video of him dancing in uniform with other attendees was posted on Facebook, being viewed over 20,000 times. He indicated that several favorable comments were posted regarding how nice it was to see police

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***September 1, 2015***

officers interacting with their community in this way. City Manager Scherer recognized Main Street Director Caudle and the support from the Parks & Recreation Department for their exceptional efforts in making these events happen without any problems, and offering the community a chance to come together for an enjoyable evening of music.

City Manager Scherer reported that the annual external audit of our financial records has been completed, and the auditor indicated we would receive an “Unmodified” Report (used to be called “Unqualified”), meaning there were no major faults or findings, and is the best report rating we can receive. He pointed out that the auditor has not determined what the final fund balance is yet but will let us know when he is able to return sometime in October or November to present his final report to Council.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Fire Department conducted their first annual Fire Safety Fair this past Saturday, which was well attended and well conducted by Chief Coggins and his department. He stated Chief Coggins has been selected to attend the Chief Officer Executive Development Program, sponsored by the NC Association of Fire Chiefs, and is being held in conjunction with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, UNC School of Government and the Charlotte Fire Department. He indicated that this program will offer training and information critical to today’s fire officer with topics including management/leadership, budgeting, strategic planning, human resources and employment law, working with local and state government officials/agencies, career and organizational development, effective communications, and many other topics of interest. City Manager Scherer indicated that the program faculty will consist of instructors from the UNC School of Government, Fire Service, local government and private sector, and will offer the most up-to-date information and strategies to help the fire officer meet his/her daily responsibilities. He also reported that the Roanoke Rapids Fireman’s Club is sponsoring the third annual “Brotherhood Bash” softball tournament next Saturday, the 12th at Chockoyotte Park. City Manager Scherer recognized Chief Coggins’ son, Braxton, for his hard work in constructing two really nice scorer’s tables at the park as part of his Eagle Scout program.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Parks & Recreation Department continues to be hectic with several projects. He stated the department has been coordinating with the Public Works Department to have the sand removed from the volleyball court area in front of the T. J. Davis Recreation Center and do storm drainage

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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

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planning so they can be ready to begin construction on the new skate park. He stated once they receive the concept plan, which should be very soon, they will be ready to start work on it. He also reported that the department has had several rental functions at the Theatre and has their first true concert scheduled on November 8th with a show called “Every Child is Beautiful Tour”. He stated a local performer, Meredith Kinleigh, is part of the show. City Manager Scherer reported that the Aquatic Center will be closed next week, from Tuesday through Friday, to effect screening repairs required by the Federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act.

City Manager Scherer indicated that he has nothing new to report on the Theatre negotiations. He stated he has contacted the LGC for their comments and has a meeting scheduled with a commercial marketing company to finalize property marketing information.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Parks & Recreation Department is also in the planning stages for the annual Christmas Parade, which is being sponsored this year by G. W. Hux and Company. He indicated that the parade will be held on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 p.m. and the Tree Lighting ceremony will be held on Thursday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Public Works Department will begin work sometime in the next week or so, depending on when materials arrive, to stabilize the façade at the front of 1026 Roanoke Avenue.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Planning & Development Department has been conducting design reviews with the Roanoke Rapids Graded School District for the new Manning School. He stated final approval must be obtained by the District from the State’s Department of Public Instruction before design plans can be finalized.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Police Department responded over the weekend to another series of vehicle break-ins and has apprehended a suspect. He stated the department is offering assistance to the Weldon Police Department this Saturday for its “Back to School Bash”, which will include the fireworks from July 4th that were not utilized due to inclement weather.

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***September 1, 2015***

City Manager Scherer reported that a Patriot Day ceremony will be held on Friday, September 11, beginning at 8:45 a.m. at Centennial Park. He also reported that City offices will be closed this Monday, September 7th in honor of Labor Day.

Following brief remarks by Mayor Doughtie, motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adjourn.

 

 9/15/2015