



Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, September 4, 2018 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
Ernest C. Bobbitt)
Suetta S. Scarbrough)
Wayne Smith)

Council Members

Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager
Gilbert Chichester, City Attorney
Traci Storey, City Clerk
Leigh Etheridge, Finance Director
Kathy Kearney, Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Manager
Chuck Hasty, Police Chief
Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director
Stacy Coggins, Fire Chief
John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director
Christina Caudle, Main Street Director

Absent: Councilwoman Carol H. Cowen

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

Adoption of Business Agenda

Mayor Doughtie asked Council members about any known conflicts of interest with respect to the matters before them this evening.

There being no conflicts, motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for September 4, 2018 as presented.

Approval of Council Minutes

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to approve the August 21, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes as written.

New Business

Designation of Voting Delegate for the 2018 Annual NC League Business Meeting

City Manager Scherer stated each year a representative from the City attends the Annual Conference for the NC League of Municipalities. He said this year Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee will be attending the conference in Hickory, NC (September 19 - 21, 2018). The Annual NC League Business Meeting will be held during the conference and a voting delegate needs to be designated by City Council.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to designate Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee as the City's Voting Delegate for the 2018 Annual NC League Business Meeting.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scherer reported the City received full funding for the \$200,000 PARTF grant. He recognized and thanked Parks & Recreation Director Simeon and his team for putting the grant request together. He announced the grant request was ranked 6th out of the 50 that was presented to the state. Construction for the new splash pad at Chaloner Recreation Center to begin no earlier than November 1st. Anticipate being ready for use next summer. Construction of new driveway into park by Chaloner Middle School will start soon for access of heavy equipment for pool demolition and pad construction. Mr. Simeon and I have a meeting tomorrow morning with the middle school principal to discuss the driveway plan. Mr. Simeon had a meeting with the splash pad designer last week to determine splash pad elements and playground equipment. Chaloner Rec Center will be closed beginning November 1st for safety during construction. Mr. Simeon also sent in paperwork to Kate B. Reynolds Foundation to release funds – should receive grant funds the end of September or early October.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee thanked all who helped bring this project to fruition and asked how long they expected the project to take to complete. Parks & Recreation Director Simeon replied they plan to start construction of the driveway from the

Chaloner School parking lot to the Chaloner Recreation facility in a few weeks. The engineer and contractor are developing a timeline and he should have that within the next couple of weeks and it will outline everything as far as construction goes. City Manager Scherer added they fully anticipate it being ready by next season.

He announced the Community for Unity Festival sponsored by Greater Joy North Church will be held this Saturday. Activities will be inside TJ Davis and outside on Doyle Field. September 13th at 6 p.m. 40th Anniversary of Jo Story Senior Center will be celebrated at the Senior Center. TACO (Take a Child Out) Week will be held September 24-28th. Activities scheduled all week at the Canal Museum. The Halifax County Arts Council has sponsored an 8' x 32' painting by Napoleon Hill with the Underground Railroad as its theme. It is being considered to be installed on the Canal Museum grounds.

He said Public Works is preparing to lay new driveway to Chaloner Recreation Center. They can work during school hours, just need to put up a construction fence. The department continues to send out grass letters to appropriate properties. Residents blowing grass in the street and gutter. Public Works continues to monitor and advise people of it illegality when this is observed. The street sweeper is dead lined, the problem is unknown for now.

City Manager Scherer reported the external finance audit is going well, no findings thus far. The auditor will be back for one more day later this month. Kathy and Leigh have some information they need to get to them on an invoice that was selected for fieldwork. He has not given her any ideas on how they stand from a bottom line viewpoint. We continue to ask all departments to keep an eye on spending, as July and August are low revenue months. They should start receiving ad valorem tax revenue this month. The capital loan proposals from financial institutions are due to Ms. Etheridge by next Monday.

He stated a representative from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was here last Thursday. He gave information on options to preserving the brick walls at 1026 Roanoke Avenue where they are beginning to worsen. Work on the waterfall feature there continues. A Business Use Permit was received for the old Joy J's location on Roanoke Avenue. The businessman is proposing to open a high-end consignment shop there. Greg Edwards submitted a Business Use Permit for the old Shell Furniture building. State Regional Main Street meeting will be held here on October 9th. The Halifax County Arts Council will help to set up like it is a show with local art displayed. The Main Street Roanoke Rapids Annual Dinner will be held October 11th.

He said the Rooney Ridge apartment complex submitted their Building Permit application, where the City collected \$17,000 fee. They should begin breaking ground this month. The Sonic Drive Thru project is moving forward and the brick façade is an attractive option for the area.

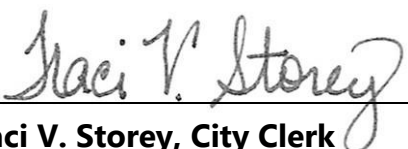
He announced there will be a luncheon fundraiser for Kevin Hawkins at Builders Choice on September 28th. The Roanoke Rapids Theatre free concert with Kasey Tyndall that night will benefit him as well. The Fire Department will be in the lobby to collect donations. A revival of the Turkey Bowl at the Roanoke Rapids High School football field is scheduled for December 1st. Proceeds will also benefit Kevin Hawkins. Lance Martin is organizing the event. Kevin was at church this weekend after spending ten days in the hospital for fever. He is getting ready to start a third week of chemotherapy. The Fire Department has been doing technical training on ropes and rappelling.

City Manager Scherer reported the City received the first monthly payment from the Theatre owners, and they have scheduled several show and events in the next few months.

Councilman Smith asked what was wrong with the bricks at 1026 Roanoke Avenue. City Manager Scherer replied the bricks were starting to flake off a little on the side walls. Main Street Director Caudle clarified that it was only one wall which is bright orange on the 1028 Roanoke Avenue side and it is currently vacant. The bricks are actually interior, low fire grade bricks so what is happening is called spalling; pieces are actually popping off. She said the State Historic Preservation representative recommended a brick consolidant in addition to the sealant they had already applied to the property. They were looking into the cost now, but it should be fairly reasonable and they still have grant funds to cover that. Councilman Smith asked if they had the money to pay for it. City Manager Scherer replied they had \$7,000 left in grant funding that should cover the costs.

Other Business

There being no further business, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Approved by Council Action on: September 18, 2018