



Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 5:15 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

Present: Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor
Ernest C. Bobbitt)
Carol H. Cowen)
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
Chuck Hasty, Police Chief
Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director
John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director
Jason Patrick, Fire Chief
Christina Caudle, Main Street Director

Absent: Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem
Kathy Kearney, Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Manager

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 Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for December 4, 2018 as presented.

Approval of Council Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to approve the November 20, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes as drafted.

Committee Appointments/Reappointments

Library Advisory Committee

City Clerk Storey stated Krystal Cook-Elliott has submitted an application to fill the vacancy on the Library Advisory Committee. She reported City Council took a ballot vote earlier and Ms. Cook-Elliott received a unanimous vote to be appointed. She requested Council to make a motion to appoint Krystal Cook-Elliott to the Library Advisory Committee.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to appoint Krystal Cook-Elliott to the Library Advisory Committee.

Roanoke Canal Commission

City Clerk Storey said the terms for Michael Green, Julia Ann Fitts, Chris Wicker and Greg Lawson have expired or will be expiring next month. A ballot vote was taken earlier and all candidates received a unanimous vote. She requested Council make a motion to reappoint Mr. Green, Mrs. Fitts, Mr. Wicker and Mr. Lawson to serve on the Roanoke Canal Commission.

Motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to reappoint Michael Green, Julia Ann Fitts, Chris Wicker and Greg Lawson to the Roanoke Canal Commission.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scherer recognized the administrative staff, most importantly John Simeon and his department, for putting on another successful Christmas parade and Holiday Tree Lighting. The planning and execution required to coordinate the myriad details necessary to have a great parade is enormous, and John excels at making this event as seamless and fun-filled as possible with outstanding help from all departments. He said he would also like to recognize the Public Works Department for their quick and efficient cleanup of the Avenue after the parade.

Also, Mr. Simeon is looking into installing more speakers at the tree lighting site to improve audience experience. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to be busy with youth basketball and facility rentals. The Department has had two death in their employees' families recently: Garry Moore's father passed away and Joyce Jones' father passed away.

He reported a stormwater project is being done by Public Works at 5th Street and Charlotte behind TJ Davis Recreation. This is a deep sinkhole due to a collapsed stormwater line. Cost of the project is estimated in the \$30,000 range. It has created a large and deep sinkhole right beside the sidewalk.

City Manager Scherer noted Public Works is also coordinating the final steps in the installation of the first phase of the new wayfinding signs. Mr. Chalker has finalized the engineering requirements of the base and pole installation and is now waiting to confirm an agreement with a vendor to drill the 2' x 6' holes in NCDOT approved right of way locations. This will be accomplished hopefully by the end of the month. Leaf season collection continues at full speed with equipment breakdowns causing some problems.

He announced the Fireman's Club will be hosting Santa in the Park at Centennial Park on December 8th, 15th and 22nd from 5 – 8 p.m. School Cheerleaders will serve hot chocolate.

He said the Halifax County Commissioners approved Cynthia Fowlers' offer to purchase an easement in the Forrest Hills Shopping Center. She plans to pave the area between DrugCo Express and the auto repair shop. She also plans to fence/screen the property.

He announced the Roanoke Rapids Police Department and other local law enforcement departments will be working with the radio station to hold a Toy Drive this Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. at Walmart. Toy donations will go to children throughout the county. The Christmas for the Kids Shopping Day is Saturday, December 15th. Participants are asked to meet at Chick-fil-A at 9-9:30 a.m. Then shop at Walmart and those wanting to stay will go to lunch at San Jose.

City Manager Scherer stated the first Tuesday in January is January 1st and recommended that the Council meeting be moved to Tuesday, January 8th at 5:15 p.m. He asked that their approval be noted in the minutes of this meeting.

He announced the following upcoming events:

- Fire Department Christmas Dinner, tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.
- Jo Story Christmas Social on Thursday, December 14th at 4:00 p.m.
- Christmas at the Canal, Canal Museum, Friday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m.
- Christmas for the Kids Shopping Trip, Saturday, December 15th at 9:00 a.m. at Chick-fil-A.
- Employee Christmas Luncheon at Kirkwood Adams Community Center, December 19th beginning at 11:00 a.m. with service award presentations.

Mayor Doughtie stated he thought they would all be glad to see Ms. Fowler complete her project on the parking lot next to DrugCo. He thanked all who have worked on that; it's been a long process.

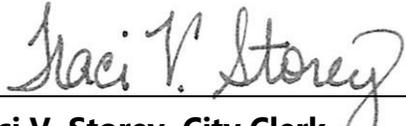
Other Business

Councilwoman Scarbrough said there was a story on WRAL TV yesterday about Matthew Blanton, an 18 year old young man who was one of the Field Artillery personnel that shot off the 21-gun salute when President Bush's coffin was moved from Houston to Washington, D.C. He was interviewed by one of the reporters at WRAL and told them he was from Roanoke Rapids. She stated she was so proud and asked if Mayor Doughtie would write him a letter telling him how proud they were of him. She said she did not know his address or his parents.

Mayor Doughtie replied he would be glad to write a letter if someone could help find out his information. City Clerk Storey said she would work on that for him.

Council agreed to reschedule the regular Council meeting date from January 1st to Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.



Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Approved by Council Action on: December 18, 2018