

The New River City
April 22, 2019 **Radford, Virginia**
10 Robertson St.
Regular Meeting Number 22 of Radford City Council, F.Y. 2018-2019

The regular meeting of the Radford City Council was convened at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA. The Mayor of the City, Raymond David Horton, was present and presiding. Other members of City Council present were Ms. Jessie Foster, Mr. Robert P. Gropman, Dr. Richard Harshberger, Ms. Naomi Huntington.

Others present were as follows:
Mr. David Ridpath, City Manager
Ms. Jenni Wilder, City Clerk
Ms. Melissa Skelton, Community Development Director

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Horton led citizens in a moment of reflection.

MINUTES APPROVALS: On a motion by Dr. Harshberger and seconded by Ms. Foster that the minutes for the April 8, 2019 Regular Meeting are approved as amended.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton
NAYES: None-0

MINUTES APPROVALS: On a motion by Ms. Foster and seconded by Dr. Harshberger that the minutes for the April 15, 2019 Special Meeting are approved as amended.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton
NAYES: None-0

SUBJECT: Mental Health Month

SUMMARY: The month of May, 2019 is Mental Health Month in the Commonwealth. The New River Valley Community Services requested that City Council consider a Proclamation to help broaden public awareness and understanding of mental health conditions, as well as the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people.

ACTION: Mr. Gropman made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented, Dr. Harshberger seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton
NAYES: None-0

SUBJECT: Children's Mental Health Week

SUMMARY: The month of May, 2019 is Mental Health Month in the Commonwealth. The New River Valley Community Services requested that City Council consider a Proclamation to help broaden public awareness and understanding of mental health conditions during Children's Mental Health week, which is during the Month of May.

ACTION: Dr. Harshberger made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented, Mr. Gropman seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

OLD BUSINESS:

SUBJECT: F.Y. 2019-2020 Budget

SUMMARY: Advertised Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget in the amount of **\$59,166,280**.

The following is a synopsis of the 2019 – 2020 Budgets:

CITY OF RADFORD	Total for City
GENERAL FUND	26,882,767
STREETS MAINTENANCE FUND	2,404,870
TRANSIT	1,734,638
WATER/WASTEWATER FUND	4,970,152
ELECTRIC FUND	20,878,294
SOLID WASTE FUND	1,549,650
*INTERNAL SERVICES	745,909

*Not included in total above as this fund is allocated through all other funds.

The **Radford City School Board Budget** in the amount of \$22,183,011.

The Summary is as Follows:

RADFORD CITY SCHOOL BOARD	Total for Schools
OPERATING FUND	16,939,263
CAFETERIA FUND	674,641
GRANTS FUND	1,619,931
TEXTBOOKS FUND	386,392
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	220,000

ACTION: Dr. Harshberger made a motion to approve Ordinance 1713 on its second reading, Ms. Foster seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES:

SUBJECT: Calendar Year 2019 Tax Rate

SUMMARY: The proposed 2019 Tax Rate with Real Estate Tax Rate of \$0.82, Personal Property at \$2.44, Machinery and Tools at \$1.76, and other personal property at \$1.76.

ACTION: Ms. Huntington made a motion to approve Ordinance 1714 on its second reading, Ms. Foster seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Ms. Huntington, Dr. Harshberger, Mayor Horton

NAYES: Mr. Gropman

ACTION: Ms. Huntington made a motion to put the additional 4 cents of the tax increase into a fund for capital improvements for schools, Dr. Harshberger seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Ms. Huntington, Dr. Harshberger, Mayor Horton

NAYES:

SUBJECT: F.Y. 2020 Fee/Rate Resolution:

SUMMARY: The F.Y. 2020 Budget is supported by utility rates and fees. Utility and fees, rates are proposed to remain level for the Water/Wastewater and Electric Funds. The Sanitation Fund rate needs to increase 1.5% to support operations (\$22 for residential service). A Stormwater Management Fee is also proposed, but the details will be considered in an amendment during the fiscal year. All other fees and permits reflect actual cost for services or remain level.

ACTION: Ms. Foster made a motion to approve the Rate Resolution as presented, Ms. Huntington seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Mayor Horton Huntington

NAYES

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mr. Kenny Alderman stated that he sent the Mayor a text on April 8, 2019 and was surprised when he did not get a response. Mr. Alderman said he agrees with Mr. Gropman on the employee raises and that he apologizes for not being at the meeting last week to speak, but he was informed it was a workshop. Mr. Alderman stated he is worried about the effects the tax increased will have on the community in the future because there are already people hanging on by a string.

Mr. Bill Flichser said that this is the first time in his life he has seen people asking for their taxes to be raised. Once the tax rate is passed it won't ever go away and Mr. Flichser is thankful for the money going towards education. Mr. Flichser ended by saying that there are many elderly citizens on fixed incomes who were not well represented last week and they should be considered when passing the tax rate.

Mr. Nicholas Brokofsky came to Council to speak from the heart and request that Council help him to request that the Governor pardon his records. Ms. Brokofsky stated he would like to commission into the U.S. Army and cannot with a felony charge on his record. Mr. Brokofsky has changed his life since the charge and would like to be able to serve his country in the Army uniform.

NEW BUSINESS:

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

SUMMARY: Appointments are needed to the Onward NRV Board of Directors, Onward NRV Executive Committee and VASAP.

ACTION: Dr. Harshberger made a motion to appoint Abram Williams, Mr. Gropman seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

CITY MANAGERS COMMENTS:

Mr. Ridpath stated that Radford was fortunate to have little damage for the recent weather. The City will begin cleaning up to prepare for the Half Marathon and Food Truck Rodeo this weekend.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Ms. Foster stated that her moment of silence was dedicated to Herman J. Easter. Ms. Foster said that Council will be getting copies of the DSS March report shortly and that the Radford Heritage Foundation will have some exciting events coming up. Ms. Foster invited everyone to attend the Food Truck Rodeo on Saturday and talked about her experience passing out dictionaries with Rotary to the Third Graders. Ms. Foster updated everyone on the status of the American Legion Building and said that they will be contacting people in the coming weeks for the nonskilled labor work.

Dr. Harshberger stated the Radford University put on a great performance of Macbeth and that the Shred-a-thon is coming up this weekend.

Mr. Gropman stated that Council was given a hard copy of the annual police report and that statistics are down. He also said this summer he is going to gather the facts and start on the tax relief program.

Ms. Huntington thanked the Christiansburg Institute for their presentation and personally pledged a donation to them. She stated that in the future she hopes the City will be able to chip in as well.

Mayor Horton stated that April is an exciting month with many events including the Food truck Rodeo, Premier of the Avengers and many upcoming cleanups. Mayor Horton concluded by saying he is happy with the budget and pleased to be moving forward with bringing in more revenue.

Mr. Gropman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Foster.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

ATTEST: _____

Jennifer G. Wilder, Clerk of Council

