

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AND EXECUTIVE SESSION
NOVEMBER 21, 2019**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular Council Meeting and Executive Session on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (2039 Sycamore Avenue).

Council Members Present:	Mayor Bill Fitzgerald
Melvin Henson	Danny Staton
Stanley Coffey	Steve Baldrige
	Lisa Clark

Members Absent: Vice-Mayor Cooper

ADG#1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Council Member Clark opened the meeting by introducing the KES Club from Kling Elementary School who lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Clark delivered the prayer.

ADG #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2019:

Motion was made by Councilman Staton to approve the above minutes, seconded by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

ADG #3 RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS:
Citizens who desire to speak on matters not listed on the agenda below will be heard at this time. Citizens who desire to speak on an item listed on the agenda, open for public comment, will be heard when that item is considered:

Mr. Jamie Goodin wanted to give Council an update on GO BV. He started his report by saying this is a very busy time of the year. They have been working on the town plaza where the Christmas tree lighting will take place. They have been

working with Tom to get the ornaments and the lights for the tree. He has also been working a lot with Katie, Kristina and the downtown businesses to get the store fronts decorated. They have asked businesses to be open and consider having open houses. He is excited about Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. There will be at least 3 buildings downtown that will be open and have pop up businesses in them. He has also been working on getting more murals downtown. He is working with a team of citizens that are working on how we will pay for the murals. Mr. Goodin reported they are doing a lot of construction right now. The buildings that will have apartments upstairs have been worked on for the last month. They hope to have them open by the first of the year. It seems they will have 9 total bedrooms by the beginning of the year and by the end of January there will be 10. A really cool team represented Buena Vista in Harrisonburg about 4 weeks ago for Strategic Viewing Day. The group included himself, Tom, Kristina and Katy. They met and discussed ideas on how to make Buena Vista a more fun place to be. The group decided to create a huge outdoor event at GMP and there will be a downtown component as well. They were awarded \$6,000.00 for attending the meeting and they plan to spend the money in the next 4 to 6 months on planning the huge outdoor event that will be held at GMP.

Ms. Michelle Conner and her son of 1757 Birch Avenue was next to address Council. Ms. Conner advised that she has been working on a project to bring Christmas back to Main Street in Buena Vista. She stated there are a lot of empty buildings downtown and she hopes she will be able to unite everyone. Her goal is to give courage and reassurance in the darkness with warmth and safety from throughout our lives to future generations. Adding strength, hope and encouragement and promoting friendship, teamwork, leadership, creativity and restoring pride back into our great community. After further discussion Tom Roberts said that he is working with Jamie to get the City's lights and ornaments.

Mr. Brent Styler, 2104 Walnut Avenue, was the next person to address Council. He said he is one of the three people that has been appointed to the RACSB. Mr. Styler advised they have a new director, Kim Walker and he opined she has a good handle on what she is doing. They also have a new CFO, Michelle Mathis who has prior experience with RACSB. With her efforts and help from Irma Bailey they have reduced their line of credit debt. He then said that some of their funding comes from Richmond, but it is not a complete funding. When Medicaid was cut, they cut the funding to both DSS and RACSB, but they did not cut the requirements they have to cover. He opined that it is important when we talk to our officials in Richmond, we need to point out to them that we could make very good use of restored funding. Mr. Styler said when we support RACSB, we

are supporting the citizens of Buena Vista that require their services. He also reported that the Coiner Country Store will be open by November 30th.

Council Member Clark told Mr. Styler that the front of his building looks really nice.

ADG #4 REPORTS:

1.) Mayor

None.

2.) City Manager

Mr. Scudder advised that in another year the State is going to require local governments 911 systems to go to the Next Generation which is a higher level of E911. There will be costs involved but the State is going to cover most of the upfront costs. We have a CAD System that we spent a lot of money for and it is not working quite right. Mr. Kearney has been involved in some of the discussions about the CAD System. Our Police Department is using it fairly well, but the County is having a terrible time with it. Mr. Scudder said when the system was purchased, they bought the most expensive one they were shown. He said he does not know how this will all play out but if we hear stuff about the 911 CAD System, they are on it, but it is a pretty complicated situation. He suggested that everyone ride down to Route 501 South and look at the Industrial Park. The Industrial Park is about 90% complete. The road is paved, and it looks really good. Mr. Scudder said the he, Tom and Kristina are working with the State on highly improved sites. We are 6.2 miles from Interstate 64 and 81 with all the bells and whistles. He opined we are in a really good position to market the site and hopefully we will land something. This project has stressed our budget, but he feels it will all work out in the long run.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if technicians were working on the CAD system. He then wanted to know if the system is still under warranty. Mr. Scudder advised that there are some pretty sufficient issues with the company right now.

Mr. Kearney said that he has just started working with the 911 Board to try to figure out what is going on and what can be done.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if the company that installed the equipment is working with the 911 Board.

Mr. Scudder said they are to some degree.

3.) City Attorney

None.

4.) Council Committee/Representative

Councilman Baldrige advised that last Friday evening there was the Fostering Rockbridge event and over 100 people attended. There are 35 children from Rockbridge County, Buena Vista and Lexington that need foster care and there are only 8 foster parents in all of Rockbridge County. He advised that he was also in Williamsburg on Wednesday representing the City at the Virginia School Board Association annual conference. He gives the day long session that is for brand new student school board members. There were between 40 to 60 students that came to the session.

Councilman Henson opined the Industrial Park looks good. He said we do have some good things happening in the City. Tom Roberts and the Planning Commission are working on a lot of things. He said that a lot of citizens are involved in things right now and we need to keep the momentum going. Councilman Henson said there will be a full week and a half of activities after Thanksgiving in Buena Vista.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

ADG #5 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

Mr. Casey Crookston has resigned from the Board of Zoning Appeals. His term will expire on December 31, 2021. This is the 13th time this item has appeared on the agenda. **NO APPLICANTS - ADVERTISED NEWS GAZETTE MAY 15, 2019; WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 MAY 13, 2019**

Council Member Clark wanted to know if this Board is one that a Council member cannot serve on.

Mr. Roberts stated that if you serve on the Board you cannot hold another public office or be employed by the City

This item will be carried over to the next Council meeting.

ADG #6 ROCKBRIDGE REGIONAL JAIL BOARD:

Mr. Jay Scudder's term will expire on December 31, 2019. This is a 1-year term and the first time it has appeared on the agenda. The City Manager normally fills the seat on the Jail Board.

Motion was made by Councilman Baldrige to reappoint Mr. Scudder to the Rockbridge Regional Jail Board, seconded by Council Member Clark, carried by Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

**OB #1 SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR
PRETREATMENT AT THE WWTP FOR THE CITY OF BUENA
VISTA:**

Council Member Clark motioned to read the Ordinance by title only, seconded by Councilman Baldrige, carried by Council.

Ms. Wheeler read the following Ordinance by title only:

ORDINANCE – ORD 19-10

**PRETREATMENT ORDINANCE FOR
THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA, that the current City Pretreatment Ordinance, adopted May 11, 2006 is hereby revised and replaced with the Pretreatment Ordinance attached hereto. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from the date hereon.

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Date of Adoption

Motion was made by Councilman Henson to adopt the above Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Baldrige.

Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows:

	Present	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain
Mayor Fitzgerald	X		X		
Melvin Henson	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Tyson Cooper		X			
Steve Baldrige	X		X		
Lisa Clark	X		X		
Danny Staton	X		X		
Stanley Coffey	X		X		

OB #2 APPROVE THE AGREEMENT FOR THE BUENA VISTA FIRE-RESCUE VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM:

Council Member Clark wanted to know if the agreement has changed since it was originally presented to Council other than where the funding will come from.

Mayor Fitzgerald said no further changes have been made to the agreement.

**BUENA VISTA FIRE-
RESCUE VOLUNTEER
RECRUITMENT and
RETENTION PROGRAM**

Purpose:

The purpose of the Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Program (VRRP) is to establish a means for volunteer Fire and EMS personnel to be eligible to recoup a portion of the costs they incur while volunteering in the City of Buena Vista.

Goals:

The goals of the VRRP are as follows:

1. Provide fire and EMS services to the community.
2. Encourage new volunteers to join, train and actively participate with the fire and EMS agencies serving the City.
3. Reduce and/or eliminate failed responses for fire and EMS throughout the City.
4. Offset a small amount of the expenses that volunteers incur while they train and serve their community.
5. Ensure the accountability of the program through the use of a time management system, agency response records and the NFIRS system.

Per Call Reimbursement:

Volunteer fire and EMS personnel shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for responses to calls under the following criteria:

LEVEL	AGENCY	MEMBERSHIP	AMOUNT
A	New member on Probation	Active new member on probation and Less than 1 year of service	\$3.50 per call
B	Probation Complete	Active member not on probation with 1 or more years of service	\$7.50 per call

Standby Reimbursement:

When more volunteers than are necessary respond to an emergency or arrive at the station too late to make the initial response, they shall be placed on "standby". These members would be required to remain at the station and be available to respond to any additional calls until the current incident is marked under control, they are release by the incident commander or the units are returning to the station. Members on "standby" would qualify for reimbursement under the Per Call Reimbursement at half their normal amount.

In order to receive the reimbursement, the members' names (responders and standby) shall be on the Tyler Fire Records NIFRS Client or for Rescue Squads, the OEMS Image Trend reporting system.

**BUENA VISTA FIRE-
RESCUE VOLUNTEER
RECRUITMENT and
RETENTION PROGRAM**

Requirements to participate in the program-Volunteers must complete the following:

1. Volunteer Information Sheet-Volunteers must complete this form for record-keeping purposes.
2. Federal and State Tax Withholding Documents-Each volunteer receiving a stipend must complete the Federal and State Tax forms. Instructions for completing the forms are included.

3. 1-9 Requirements-Each volunteer receiving a stipend must submit the required documentation to establish identity and employment authorization in the United States. **MUST BE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, NOT COPIES.**

Examples of Acceptable Documentation: ONE (1) of the following REQUIRED
Photocopy or Certified copy of a Birth Certificate issued by a State, County, Municipal authority or Outlying possession of the United States provided it contains an official seal
Unexpired or Expired U.S. Passport
Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (INS Form N-560 or N-561)
U.S. Certificate of Naturalization (INS Form N-550 or N-570)
U.S. Citizen Identification Card (1-179 or 1-197)
ID Card for use or Resident Citizen in the United States (INS Form 1-179)
Employment Eligibility Verification (1-9 Form)
Resident Alien Card, Permanent Resident Card (I-551) unexpired or expired for no more than one (1) year
U.S. Government issued Certified Birth Certificate
U.S. Certificate of Birth Abroad 0 Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the U.S.
Unexpired Re-entry Permit (1-327)
Unexpired Temporary Resident Card (1-688)
Unexpired Conditional Resident Alien Card (1-551)

OR Second Section Documents — TWO (2) of the following REQUIRED
Driver's License or ID Card issued by a State or Outlying possession of the United States provided it contains photograph and information such as name, date of birth, sex, height, eye color, and address 0 ID Card issued Federal, State or local government agencies, or entities provided it contains a photograph and information such as name, date of birth, sex, height, eye color, and address
U.S. Military card or Draft Record
U.S. Social Security Card issued by the Social Security Administration

Direct Deposit Authorization. All payments made by the City of Buena Vista will be distributed via Direct Deposit. The direct deposit authorization form must be completed and include a voided check or a direct deposit authorization form from your banking institution.

Motion was made by Councilman Baldrige to approve the agreement, seconded by Council Member Clark, carried by Council with the exception of Councilman Henson who abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1 PRESENTATION ON EXCESS CITY LANDS BY TOM ROBERTS:

Mr. Tom Roberts presented the following:

Although there have been previous efforts to catalog and inventory City-owned land parcels, the development of GIS parcel maps in the last couple years has made mapping and analysis of City land holdings possible in a new way. We have never before mapped City land this comprehensively.

This mapping effort was focused on City-owned parcels, not on any City-owned right of way such as streets or alleys, which will be the subject of future analysis. Using real estate ownership records, all parcels owned or controlled by the City were mapped, including parks, government buildings, and undeveloped lands. Property owned by the Buena Vista School Board was not mapped or analyzed. Results:

- 95 parcels
- Total of approximately 750 acres
- Vast majority of parcels are less than 0.5 acres
- Owning entities: City of Buena Vista; Buena Vista Public Service Authority; Public Recreational Facilities Authority; Economic Development Authority

Surplus Property

While this mapping and analysis will provide many new insights, on priority is to identify potential surplus property that may be suitable for sale or development. The Director of Community & Economic Development has reviewed all City land and identified 14 parcels he recommends for sale or development.

Parcels were selected using the following criteria:

- No current governmental use
- No planned use for government buildings, infrastructure, etc.
- industrial park parcels were excluded, as they are already for sale
- All land in and around Glen Maury Park and Vista Links were excluded
- Large enough area to be developed independently OR logical for acquisition by adjacent property owner
- If large enough for independent development, topography and access suitable for development (i.e. not in a creek, not on a steep slope)

These 14 parcels total approximately seven acres and their total assessed value is approximately \$94,000. Most of the parcels have value primarily for adjacent landowners, however some are potential building sites for homes.

Please note the map is not guaranteed accurate and represents the best effort of staff. Any decisions about disposition of property should involve careful due diligence including deed/title research and survey.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**ACCORDING TO SECTION 2.2-3711 (A) (1) OF THE 1950
CODE OF VIRGINIA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CITY MANAGER:**

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE MEETING

MOTION: Councilman Henson

DATE: November 21, 2019

SECOND: Councilman Coffey

WHEREAS, the Buena Vista City Council has convened an executive meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Buena Vista City Council that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buena Vista City Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Buena Vista City Council.

VOTE: AYES: ALL

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Vice-Mayor Cooper

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Vice-Mayor Cooper

REGULAR SESSION: Councilman Henson moved to return to regular session, seconded by Councilman Baldrige, carried by Council.

Mayor Fitzgerald	Mr. Baldrige	Mr. Staton	Mr. Henson
Mr. Coffey	Ms. Clark		

Dawn M. Wheeler
Clerk of Council

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

Dawn M. Wheeler, Clerk of Council