

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2020**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Buena Vista Municipal Building (2039 Sycamore Avenue).

Council Members Present:	Mayor Bill Fitzgerald
Melvin Henson	Danny Staton
Stanley Coffey	Cheryl Hickman
Tyson Cooper	Vice-Mayor Lisa Clark

Members Absent: None.

ADG#1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Mayor Fitzgerald opened the meeting by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Cooper delivered the prayer.

ADG #2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Clark to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

ADG #3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 2, 2020:

Mr. Tom Roberts pointed out an error in the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on January 2, 2020. Under NB #4, the price was incorrect. The correct price should be \$3,037.86. Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to approve the corrected minutes from the Regular Council meeting held on January 2, 2020 and the minutes from the Organizational Council meeting held on January 2, 2020, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

ADG #4 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.

The following people addressed Council expressing their concerns about cutting the funds for the Buena Vista Public Library:

- 1.) Christina Himes, 2474 Maple Avenue, Buena Vista
- 2.) Camille Lee, 1857 Maple Avenue, Buena Vista
- 3.) Etta King, 2475 Spruce Avenue, Buena Vista
- 4.) Heather Lee, 1932 Chestnut Avenue, Buena Vista
- 5.) Michelle Mahaffey, 2215 Spruce Avenue, Buena Vista
- 6.) Skye Lowry, 1925 Forest Avenue, Buena Vista
- 7.) Jared Lee, 1857 Maple Avenue, Buena Vista
- 8.) Bethany Whitehead, Walnut Avenue, Buena Vista
- 9.) Ms. Reesor, 1045 17th Street, Buena Vista
- 10.) Mike Richardson, 2335 Hickory Avenue, Buena Vista
- 11.) Steve Baldrige, 164 Larch Avenue, Buena Vista
- 12.) Wyatt Winney, 1374 Cherry Avenue, Buena Vista
- 13.) Erin Talley, 2064 Oak Avenue, Buena Vista
- 14.) Brent Styler, 2104 Walnut Avenue, Buena Vista

Mr. Jamie Goodin, 202 North Main Street, Lexington reported to Council about GO BV. He advised they are getting ready to send out annual reports to the public. He also reported that within the last year they have renovated 3 second level apartments; there are citizens working on designing the Town Square; a new roof has been installed on a building; a building has been re-insulated; 2161 through 2163 Magnolia Avenue: the middle building needs to be torn down and they are in the process now of removing the building. The vacant place where the building now stands will be used to install some outdoor seating and create

some more green space. They believe if this is done, it will dramatically increase the value of two adjacent buildings.

Vice-Mayor Clark wanted to know if any drawings have been done to show what the area will look like after the renovations.

Mr. Goodin said they are working on the drawings and should have them soon. They are about to start major construction on a building at 2043 Magnolia Avenue between the Camelot building and the Arts Council building. He opined that it has been exciting working with the City of Buena Vista. Mr. Goodin said that everyday there are developers and entrepreneurs wanting to buy the buildings and set up businesses. He said the interest has really picked up in the last month and a half. He stated there is a very strong group of citizens that are doing events and they are still interested in exploring library options.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if Mr. Goodin had any information on the Ford building on Forest Avenue.

Mr. Goodin said they do not have anything in concrete yet.

The next person to approach Council was Mr. George Huger, 15 Vista Links Drive, Buena Vista. He said that after reading the local paper a couple of weeks ago and talking to other citizens he is curious as to what the plan is for a new City Manager. He stated that he was very shocked that Mr. Scudder's contract was not renewed. He said that he goes online and looks at our budget and opined that Mr. Scudder has been working hard to minimize the budget and has done a very good job. Mr. Huger said that Council is quoted in the newspaper they are looking for a new vision and he feels the citizens of Buena Vista deserve to know what the vision is. He opined that right now it is not looking too good.

Councilman Coffey replied that right now it is looking good. We have a lot of things going forward in this town now.

Mr. Huger stated that a lot of which Mr. Scudder has done a lot of leg work on and made happen. He said he understands Mr. Walker's thing and the things that Jamie has been talking about. He also understands about Columbia Gas going in the Industrial Park and that things are going well there. From a financial and physical standpoint Mr. Scudder has been basically working 2 jobs on and off the whole time. He wanted to know how Council will be able to find someone to do a better job than what Mr. Scudder has done. He opined that the citizens of Buena Vista deserve some idea of what that is.

Mayor Fitzgerald said the process will be established at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Kearney said it will be on the agenda for the next Council meeting as to how the process will be handled.

Mr. Huger stated that selection is one thing and wanted to know who Council is looking for. He wanted to know how Council will get someone who can do more than what Mr. Scudder has done in the last 8 or 9 years. He asked Council what type of vision they are going for. He said when he hires a manager, he sits down and writes out a plan of what that person is going to look like and their experience. He wanted to know if Council has done that or did, they just decide his time was up.

Mayor Fitzgerald said they all have ideas on what they are going to look for and they will put them together soon.

Mr. Huger opined that Council put the cart before the horse.

After several more people spoke about supporting the library, Mayor Fitzgerald said their comments tonight came about because of a conversation he had at the Mayors/Chair breakfast. He said he did not say he was going to cut all the funding for the library. He said that he was looking at cutting some funding from the library and other areas. He said he was speaking of only his opinion on what he was asked to do if it comes down to it. He opined his statement has been blown out of proportion. He said he is looking at how to balance the budget without raising taxes and it is not looking very good. He stated that none of the other Council members have said anything about cutting the funding for the library. He explained that you must look at everything when you start looking at the budget. He opined that no one wants to make cuts, and no one wants to raise taxes.

Councilman Henson asked Mr. Roberts if he was ever able to get any additional funds for the library.

Mr. Roberts said that GO BV is considering looking at some fund-raising options for the construction of a new library. He said he does not know if any of those funds would cover operations at the library.

Mr. Goodin advised they are in the middle of a feasibility study to build a new library. They will need to get all the community input they can about what the library needs to offer, and they need to speak with folks who have ideas on how

to start to fund raise for the construction of a new library. They are exploring the options right now and they hope they will have a breakthrough to share asap.

Mr. Brent Styler, 2104 Walnut Avenue, was the last person to speak concerning the library. He asked everyone to stand that is in support of the library. Mr. Styler stated if we had the whole City here most people would stand for the library. He said one aspect that has not been mentioned, which he thinks can be expanded, is that we pride ourselves that we are an Appalachian Trail City. Many of those people come off the Trail and head for an electronic connection. We could expand that, and they would still probably have a line waiting. He then asked if Jamie Goodin would give him some time (Jamie said he would). Mr. Styler then asked if the Mayor would give him some time, along with Jamie. Mayor Fitzgerald said he would. Mr. Styler said there is a way to solve the library issue. It is right in front of us; it is not magic; it is common sense. He then asked again if both the Mayor and Jamie would take him up on it. Both said they would.

Mayor Fitzgerald told Mr. Styler that he has his number.

Mr. Styler said he uses it too.

ADG #5 REPORTS:

1.) Mayor

Mayor Fitzgerald advised the following for Committees of City Council:

FINANCE, EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION:

Vice-Mayor Clark, Councilman Cooper, Council Member Hickman

PUBLIC WORKS AND PUBLIC SAFETY:

Councilman Henson, Councilman Coffey

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Councilman Henson, Councilman Staton, Council Member Hickman

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Vice-Mayor Clark, Councilman Cooper

REVITALIZATION/BEAUTIFICATION:

Councilman Coffey, Councilman Staton

2.) City Manager

Mr. Scudder started his report by saying if anyone has driven into town at night, the new PMHS Girls' Basketball sign on Route 60 really looks nice. The Dickinson Well pumps that are going to get the back flow in to the

sewer system in the Industrial Park should be installed in the next 2 weeks. Because of the Industrial Park it made it fiscally possible. We will get rid of a lot of chemicals that are currently being used to treat the water before it goes into the outflow in the creek. The most important thing is that it will remove the handicap that we have on producing more water. The recent fire in Racey Acres pointed out a couple of things about capacity which some of us have talked about. The older refuse truck broke down and is not worth fixing. We have contacted a few localities to see about used ones that they are going to get rid of. We will have to have a backup. Johnny Cole has worked on getting the trucks ready for this weekend if we get bad weather. Another thing of concern is the digester at the WWTP is leaning a little bit more. A company from Wisconsin is coming to look at it. Mr. Scudder said he has been talking to Spencer from Rockbridge County and Jim from the City of Lexington concerning jail costs. The three of them have sent letters to Delegate Campbell and Senator Deeds asking them to help localities with the rising jail costs. There is going to be a bill presented to the General Assembly that will help localities with jail costs. One of the problems we have is we are housing 40 inmates right now that should be at the State. Local taxpayers are footing the bill for these inmates. That is one thing we want to try to point out with VML. The other thing is the CSA costs that are off the rail. Our costs in the past have been approximately \$250,000.00. In the last 3 to 4 years the costs have risen, and we paid \$660,000.00 for last year. These costs are unsustainable for a place like Buena Vista: that represents \$0.16 to \$0.18 on the real estate tax rate. These costs are financially crippling several jurisdictions here in Virginia right now and we are one of them.

3.) City Attorney

None.

4.) Council Committee/Representative

Vice-Mayor Clark advised that the Finance Committee met earlier this week and they started going through the previous budgets with a fine tooth comb and looking at numbers and expenditures and revenues and expected revenues so that when they start working on our budget we will have a good place to start. She opined they understand everything that was spent and the grants coming in. She said that Mr. Clemmer really does a good job with providing Council the information they need to move forward as far as expenditures and revenues goes. On another note, schools are also starting to talk about forming their budgets. Just for the record, the State of Virginia had an \$800,000,000.00 surplus this year and they are not really giving any of it back to the localities. \$200,000,000.00

was sent back to the General Assembly with no instructions on what to do with the money. At this point no money has been put in the budget for raises for school employees. The Governor is doing a big push for pre-school programs but has not given any money for that yet. She then thanked Mr. Huger for coming and speaking to Council. She said we realize that Council needs a vision. We have set a Council retreat for February 9 where they will really work on that. One of the things we all realize is we do have a lot of families and kids in crisis.

Councilman Henson advised there was a quarterly meeting yesterday with Public Works. Some signage issues were discussed, and Johnny Cole will take care of those issues. He said we have major concerns with water/sewer, park maintenance and equipment maintenance. He opined it was a good meeting.

Councilman Coffey thanked everyone that spoke concerning the library. He said Council will do everything they can to keep the funding for the library. He advised that he, Council Member Hickman, Mr. Scudder, Mr. Clemmer and Ms. Strowbridge had a learning meeting that lasted from 8:30 to 12:45. He said the meeting was very informational and he learned a whole lot. He was very complimentary of Mr. Scudder, Mr. Clemmer and Ms. Strowbridge. Councilman Coffey said he also met with Mr. Scudder, Lt. Harrison and Chief Hartman and the meeting was very informational. He feels the meeting was very beneficial to both himself, Mr. Scudder and the Police Department. He said Council will talk about their vision for the City at the scheduled Council retreat on February 8th.

Mr. Scudder advised there will be a meeting on February 12th at Vista Links concerning the census. There will be a lot of representatives from different areas so they can be informed about the importance of getting everyone counted.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

ADG #6 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 16th time this item has appeared on the agenda. **NO APPLICANTS - ADVERTISED NEWS GAZETTE MAY 15, 2019; WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 MAY 13, 2019**

Ms. Christina Himes said she would be interested in serving on this Board. Ms. Wheeler will send her an application.

OLD BUSINESS:

OB #1 SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT SECTIONS 302 DEFINITIONS AND 614 MIXED USE:

Vice-Mayor Clark wanted to know if any of the language changed since the first reading.

Mr. Kearney said nothing has been changed.

Vice-Mayor Clark motioned to read the following Ordinance by title only, seconded by Councilman Cooper, carried by Council.

Ms. Wheeler read the following Ordinance by title only:

Zoning Text Amendment

Sections 302 Definitions and 614 Mixed Use

Ordinance Text – ORD 20-01

27 December 2019

AN ORDINANCE to amend Section 302 and Section 614 of the Land Development Regulations of the Code of the City of Buena Vista, as amended, to define terms related to the manufacture and processing of goods; and to regulate such uses within the Mixed Use zone, for the purpose of encouraging appropriate types of production activities that would contribute to economic activity and downtown vitality.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA, that after a duly called public hearing, in accordance with the general welfare of the citizens of Buena Vista and in accordance with good zoning practices, Section 302 and Section 614 of the Land Development Regulations of the City of Buena Vista are hereby amended as follows in the attached Exhibit A.

This ordinance shall be effective 30 days following adoption by City Council.

William Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

Date

Councilman Cooper motioned to approve the above Ordinance, seconded by Vice-Mayor Clark.

Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows:

	Present	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain
Mayor Fitzgerald	X		X		
Melvin Henson	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Tyson Cooper	X		X		
Cheryl Hickman	X		X		
Lisa Clark	X		X		

Danny Staton	X		X		
Stanley Coffey	X		X		

OB #2 SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TAX MAPS 26-1---C MIXED USE:

Councilman Cooper asked if any of the language had been changed since the first reading of the Ordinance.

Mr. Kearney said nothing has been changed.

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to read the following Ordinance by title only, seconded by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

Ms. Wheeler read the following Ordinance by title only:

Zoning Map Amendment

Tax maps 26-1---C

Mixed Use Ordinance – ORD 20-02

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA, that after a duly called public hearing, in accordance with the general welfare of the citizens of Buena Vista and in accordance with good zoning practices, 3.5 acres of the property at 245 West 21st Street (tax map numbers 26-1---C) shall be rezoned from LM Light Manufacturing to MU Mixed Use following the boundaries depicted on Exhibit A; and the zoning map for the City will be amended to reflect this change.

BE IT ALSO ORDAINED that the following Conditional Use Permits shall be granted to the portion of the same property which is zoned Mixed Use.

FIRST, that small-scale production establishments, as defined by the zoning ordinance, shall be permitted;

SECOND, that storage or warehousing shall be permitted, pursuant to Section 614.04-16 of this ordinance.

This ordinance shall be effective 30 days following adoption by City Council.

William Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

Date

Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows:

	Present	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain
Mayor Fitzgerald	X		X		
Melvin Henson	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Tyson Cooper	X		X		
Cheryl Hickman	X		X		

Lisa Clark	X		X		
Danny Staton	X		X		
Stanley Coffey	X		X		

OB #3 SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ABANDONMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY 26TH STREET BETWEEN HAWTHORNE AVENUE AND CEDAR AVENUE:

Vice-Mayor Clark stated that changes were made at the first reading of the Ordinance.

Councilman Henson said that Mr. Roberts pointed out the correct dollar amount earlier in the meeting. The correct amount is \$3,037.86.

Mr. Kearney said the only thing changed during the first reading was the dollar amount was added. There was a typo in the minutes and that will be corrected so technically there were no changes made from the first reading to the second reading.

Vice-Mayor Clark motioned to read the following Ordinance by title only, seconded by Councilman Cooper, carried by Council.

Ms. Wheeler read the following Ordinance by title only:

Abandonment of Public Right of Way
26th Street between Hawthorne Avenue and Cedar Avenue
Ordinance Text – ORD 20-03
27 December 2019

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA, that in accordance with Section 15.2-2206 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, that the public right of way described in “Exhibit A” and “Exhibit B”

attached hereto shall be vacated and abandoned upon receipt of the consideration noted in "Exhibit A" ("the Property").

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that as a condition of the aforesaid abandonment and vacation, the City retains a perpetual easement over, under, and across the Property for the installation, maintenance, repair, or replacement of all utilities, including, but not limited to, water and sewer lines; electric; cable; telephone; and gas lines; and garbage pick-up.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall be recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the City of Buena Vista, Virginia, and indexed under the names listed in Exhibit A.

This ordinance shall be effective 30 days following adoption by City Council.

William Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

Date

Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows:

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

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to approve the above Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Henson.

Councilman Coffey said his concern is the formula we used to get the cost of the land. He opined that Mr. Ohleger will not pay \$3,037.86 for the land. He agreed to pay \$2,500.00. Mr. Ohleger has another piece of property that is adjoined to the piece of property he is interested in purchasing except it is bigger than the piece of land that he is wanting to buy, and it is assessed at \$2,500.00. He said he understands we do not want to go against the formula; either we use the formula, or we change it. He opined if Mr. Ohleger does not purchase the piece of land, it will be a dead piece of property and it will not be on the tax list. If he

pays \$2,500.00 that will be \$2,500.00 the City will receive, and it will become a taxable piece of property. He opined if the City can get \$2,500.00 for the piece of land and get it put back on the tax list, we are way ahead of the game.

Vice-Mayor Clark stated that according to the property tax rate the tax that we would collect on it would be about \$30.00 per year. The \$700.00 more we are asking for the property would be 23 years' worth the tax rate; it would take 23 years at \$30.00 per year to make up for the extra \$700.00 we are asking for the property. We would not be getting more money for the City. She opined it is worth \$30.00 to make sure we are doing a fair equitable formula for every citizen.

Councilman Coffey said he would rather have \$2,500.00 than to not have anything.

Councilman Cooper asked Councilman Coffey what he would propose as a new formula.

Councilman Coffey said he does not know what the new formula should be.

Council Member Hickman said she understands but it does not make sense to her to charge someone something more than we are charging someone normally. She opined unless we are in the business of selling real estate, we want to make more money on what we are selling versus what theirs is worth. She is ok with doing what is best for the citizens as well as the City as a whole. If we do this for this gentleman, we need to change our policy. Either our policy is to go by the assessed tax value of a very similar property and the variables that go into making this formula or leave it alone. We cannot have all that gray area.

Mr. Kearney said if we look at the adjacent property it is valued at over \$4,000.00. Tom looked at various properties in the area. He is looking at one piece of property which is the piece behind his property. If he goes to the piece beside of it, it is at a much higher rate. Mr. Kearney said if Mr. Ohleger says he is not going to purchase the property, there is no reason to do the Ordinance.

Vice-Mayor Clark stated that Mr. Ohleger is not bound to have to purchase the property. She also said that the Planning Commission knows the policy and they should not have said to give the property to Mr. Ohleger at no charge. She opined the formula we have established is fair.

Councilman Coffey said he agrees we need to follow the policy. He said that Mr. Ohleger could not be at the meeting tonight because he fell off a ladder and is hurt. He wanted to know if Mr. Ohleger could file a protest if we set the cost of the property at \$3,037.86.

Mr. Kearney said the Ordinance can always be tabled.

Vice-Mayor Clark opined if Council does not move forward with the Ordinance, they should be prepared to handle more people. She also said that Tom is the expert on the value of property within the City.

Mayor Fitzgerald said we need to use the same formula for everyone.

After further discussion, Ms. Wheeler polled Council again as follows:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1 RESOLUTION PETITIONING FOR UPDATES TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION URBAN MAINTENANCE INVENTORY SYSTEM:

Mr. Roberts started the discussion by stating the Resolution is important. We maintain our streets and we receive an allocation of funding from VDOT of gas tax revenues based on the miles of streets that we have. They keep an inventory of our streets. They have some standards for what streets can be part of that inventory that they will pay us money for. He said he had an opportunity to look and saw there are some segments that should be included in the street inventory which were not. He pointed out on the map that he gave Council there are a lot of little yellow pieces; he ended up with 42 different segments that he feels need to be added and 1 segment that needs to be deleted. We need a City Council Resolution to submit these to VDOT for review to determine whether we can include them in the inventory or not. If some or all these segments are added to our inventory it could be a meaningful addition to the revenue for the allocations that we receive. Mr. Roberts said the segment total 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles; you can double that because they are lane miles. It could easily be in excess of \$100,000.00 additional revenues per year.

Mr. Scudder said that Mr. Roberts has done a really good job and he hope it pans out for the City.

Vice-Mayor Clark read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

R20-01

Petitioning the Department of Transportation for maintenance payments for certain streets in the Urban Maintenance Inventory System (UMIS):

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Virginia Code Section 33.2-319, the Virginia Department of Transportation makes payments to municipalities for the maintenance of qualifying highways; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Department of Transportation procedures require that municipalities requesting lane mileage additions and deletions for payments under § 33.2-219 submit Form U-1, "Request for Street Additions, Deletions or

Conversions for Municipal Assistance Street Payments," as approved by the municipality's governing body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA:

1. Hereby petitions the Virginia Department of Transportation to accept (or delete) those streets listed on Form U-1 for street maintenance payments; a copy of said Form U-1 being attached hereto and made a part of this resolution.
2. That Form U-1 and accompanying maps, and a copy of this resolution, shall be transmitted to the Resident Engineer/Administrator of the Virginia Department of Transportation.
3. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage.

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

Date

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to approve the above Resolution, seconded by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

NB #2 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK:

Mr. Scudder stated that Spencer Sutter requested that both Buena Vista and Lexington do a Resolution supporting additional State funding for the Natural Bridge State Park.

Councilman Cooper read the following Resolution:

Resolution Supporting Natural Bridge State Park-R20-02

WHEREAS, Virginia State Parks are a critical element of rural Virginia's travel and tourism infrastructure, contributing over \$267.1 million dollars to state and local economic impact infused into the state's economy for 2018, and,

WHEREAS, the Natural Bridge State Park in Rockbridge County attracted over 187,000 visitors in 2019; and,

WHEREAS, tourists travel through and frequently stay overnight in Rockbridge County and the cities of Lexington and Buena Vista to visit Natural Bridge State Park; and,

WHEREAS, patrons to Natural Bridge State Park have spent in excess of \$9.7 million through the state in 2018 and approximately 76% of this spending was by out-of-state visitors; and,

WHEREAS, economic activity and impact by Natural Bridge State Park generated approximately \$11.2 million in state and local revenues for 2018; and,

WHEREAS, by the measures described above, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the leadership of Virginia State Parks have proven to be excellent stewards of limited funding by returning \$13.08 for every \$1.00 invested; and,

WHEREAS, Natural Bridge State Park is requesting much-needed additional funding in the FY2021 budget, which would support five new full-time positions; and,

WHEREAS, these five positions include: (1) Chief Ranger for Visitor Experience, (2) Park Ranger for Maintenance, (1) Park Ranger for Retail, and (1) Park Ranger for Interpretation; and,

WHEREAS, funding support of these positions would help Natural Bridge State Park expand its ability to serve the public, with significant returns to the Commonwealth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council for the City of Buena Vista, by this Resolution, formally requests members of the Virginia General Assembly to support full funding of Virginia State Parks 2020 budget request and to support what is needed to adequately maintain and operate what currently exists in terms of facilities, infrastructure and authorized construction, as detailed in the Virginia State Parks 2019 Legislative Budget Decision Package.

Adopted this 16th day of January 2020.

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

Councilman Cooper noted that within the Resolution, a correction needed to be made: \$11.2 should read \$11.2 million.

Motion was made by Councilman Henson to adopt the above Resolution with the correction made, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

**NB #3 PRESENTATION BY LT. MITCHELL HARRISON
CONCERNING DEER CULLING AT GLEN MAURY PARK:**

Mr. Scudder started the discussion by stating the deer population at GMP was discussed several weeks ago at the Council meeting. He asked the Police Department to investigate what we might be able to do with the deer population. Lt. Harrison has done a lot of work on this project working with the Virginia Department of Inland Game and Fisheries.

Lt. Mitch Harrison said that Mr. Scudder had asked him some questions about a culling program for the deer at GMP. He spoke to a biologist at the Virginia Department of Game. Several years ago, we did an archery shoot at the park. That process was done to keep a healthy herd of deer at the park. The biologist said the number of deer we wanted to take out the last time did not even meet the number needed for a healthy population. He was told we could be issued a kill permit and he could have a team of volunteers to go to the park for a couple of days and take some of the deer out. The meat would be donated to the Hunters for the Hungry. They will process the meat and give it to needy families

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if they would kill both does and bucks.

Lt. Harrison said it would be does only. He said they start to produce at 1 year old and most of the time they deliver twins. He said he would like to do this kill

while it is still cold. They would do it on a Saturday and block off both the park and the golf course. The Game Department estimated over 500 deer in our park area. He said we can get a kill permit for 1 or 2 days. He suggested that we put some sort of plan in place to do this yearly during deer season.

Motion was made by Councilman Henson to get a kill permit to cull the deer in GMP, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

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

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

Dawn M. Wheeler, Clerk of Council