

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA  
REGULAR (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETING  
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS  
MAY 7, 2020**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular (Virtual) Council meeting and Public Hearings on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:  
Melvin Henson  
Stanley Coffey  
Tyson Cooper

Mayor Bill Fitzgerald  
Danny Staton  
Cheryl Hickman  
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. Vice-Mayor Clark delivered the prayer.

**ADG #2    APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Vice-Mayor Clark motioned for the approval of the agenda, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

**ADG #3    NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1  
PROPOSED 2020-2021 TAX RATES  
CITY OF BUENA VISTA:**

The following was read by Ms. Wheeler, Clerk of Council:

**The City of Buena Vista will conduct a public hearing on May 7, 2020 shortly after 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be conducted to receive public input on the proposed FY 2021 Tax Rates.**

**\*\*\*\*\*THIS MEETING IS VIRTUAL – THE PUBLIC CAN ATTEND THROUGH ZOOM – PLEASE VISIT OUR CITY WEB SITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.BUENAVISTAVA.ORG](https://www.buonavistava.org) FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING USING ZOOM\*\*\*\*\***

**THE HEARING WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. ANY PERSON DESIRING TO BE HEARD WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ORAL OR WRITTEN TESTIMONY WITHIN REASONABLE TIME LIMITS AS DETERMINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL. WE ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO SUBMIT ANY**

**COMMENTS IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND ALL COMMENTS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO [DWHEELER@BVCITY.ORG](mailto:DWHEELER@BVCITY.ORG).**  
A complete copy of the budget and tax rates is available for review in the City Manager's office, City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2039 Sycamore Avenue.

The City Council is giving consideration to adopting the following real estate tax and refuse fees for FY 2021:

**Real Estate – \$1.33 per \$100 assessed valuation**  
**Personal Property - \$5.85 per \$100 assessed valuation**  
**Refuse Fee- \$21.00 per Month**

Councilman Staton stated that over the last several years the school budget has had money left over. He wanted to know how much money the schools have this year due to the schools being closed.

Mr. Kearney said we should really wait until the Ordinance is read before we discuss the school's funds.

Mayor Fitzgerald closed Public Hearing #1.

**ADG #4    NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #2**  
**PROPOSED 2020/2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**  
**CITY OF BUENA VISTA:**

The following was read by Ms. Wheeler, Clerk of Council:

**The City of Buena Vista will conduct a public hearing on May 7, 2020 at or about 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be conducted to receive public input on the proposed FY 2021 Budget.**

**\*\*\*\*\*THIS MEETING IS VIRTUAL – THE PUBLIC CAN ATTEND THROUGH ZOOM – PLEASE VISIT OUR CITY WEB SITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.BUENAVISTAVA.ORG](https://www.buonavistava.org) FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING USING ZOOM\*\*\*\*\***

**THE HEARING WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. ANY PERSON DESIRING TO BE HEARD WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ORAL OR WRITTEN TESTIMONY WITHIN REASONABLE TIME LIMITS AS DETERMINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL. WE ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO SUBMIT ANY COMMENTS IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND ALL COMMENTS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO [DWHEELER@BVCITY.ORG](mailto:DWHEELER@BVCITY.ORG).**

A complete copy of the budget is available for review in the City Manager's office, City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2039 Sycamore Avenue. The City Council is considering adopting the following real estate tax rate and refuse fee for FY 2021:

**Real Estate- \$1.33 per \$100 assessed valuation**

**Personal Property- \$5.85 per \$100 assessed valuation**

**Refuse Fee- \$21.00 per Month**

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
	<b><u>2020/21</u></b>
General Property Taxes	\$ 6,573,620
Other Local Taxes	1,965,500
Permits, Privilege Fees	20,775
Fines and Forfeitures	76,420
Earnings from Investments	3,000
Charge for Services	852,676
Miscellaneous Revenue	253,105
Non-Categorical Aid from Virginia	680,169
Shared Expenses	955,510
Categorical Aid from Virginia	3,653,234
Categorical Aid Federal	123,747
Transfers - Other Funds	<u>10,000</u>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$15,167,755</b>

**GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

City Council	\$	39,598
City Manager		147,508
City Attorney		70,000
Information Technology		62,450
Finance Director		298,258
Independent Auditor		40,700
Commissioner of the Revenue		206,668
Reassessment		33,000
Board of Equalization		3,000
City Treasurer		283,202
Insurance		68,600
Electoral Board		117,482
Circuit Court		6,250

General District Court	6,800
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court	33,490
Clerk of the Circuit Court	248,273
City Sheriff	458,724
Commonwealth's Attorney	248,025
Criminal Justice Services	73,747
Police Department	1,590,101
Fire Department	158,000
Rescue Squad	110,903
Probation Officer	3,000
Magistrate	420
Medical Examiner	150
Economic Development	119,308
Planning	210,591
Administration & Engineering	64,126
Street Maintenance	896,244
Street Lights	73,000
Refuse Collection Department	487,893
Refuse Disposal	300,000
Maintenance of Building & Grounds	415,464
Maintenance of Greenhill Cemetery	168,599
General Tax Relief	80,000
Retiree Medical Plan	30,000
Central Dispatch	327,096
School Fund	2,583,803
Regional Jail	570,000
Transfers to Other Funds	440,131
Debt Service	187,968
Social Services	3,100,000
Non-Profit Agencies	399,483
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$14,699,556</b>

#### **WATER & SEWER REVENUE**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>PROPOSED</u></b> <b><u>2020/21</u></b>
Charge for Services	\$2,554,791
WATER & Sewer Fund Revenues	\$2,554,791

## **WATER & SEWER EXPENDITURES**

<b>Administration &amp; Engineering</b>	<b>\$ 195,379</b>
<b>Water Maintenance</b>	<b>344,246</b>
<b>Sewer Maintenance</b>	<b>351,633</b>
<b>Wastewater Treatment Plant</b>	<b>775,345</b>
<b>Water Production</b>	<b>311,332</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>576,856</b>
<b>WATER &amp; SEWER FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$2,554,791</b>

## **PARKS AND RECREATION REVENUE ITEM**

### **PROPOSED 2020-21**

<b>Charge for Services &amp; Misc. Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 193,800</b>
<b>Transfer From General Fund</b>	<b>132,997</b>
<b>TOTAL PARK FUND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 326,797</b>

## **PARKS AND RECREATION EXPENDITURES**

<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$ 54,792</b>
<b>Recreation Department</b>	<b>114,746</b>
<b>Activities Department</b>	<b>16,300</b>
<b>Maintenance of Parks and Campgrounds</b>	<b>83,172</b>
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	<b>57,787</b>
<b>TOTAL PARK FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 326,797</b>

## **GOLF COURSE REVENUE**

### **PROPOSED 2020-21**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	
<b>Charge for Services</b>	<b>\$ 461,786</b>
<b>TOTAL GOLF COURSE REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 461,786</b>

**GOLF COURSE EXPENDITURES**

Golf Operations \$ 461,786

**TOTAL GOLF COURSE EXPENDITURES \$ 461,786**

**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION REVENUE**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2020-21</u>
City Funds	\$ 313,065
Transfer School Operation Fund	140,000
Interest Recovery	18,173
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCT REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 471,238</b>

**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES**

Literary Loan	\$ 375,000
Bus Lease	53,474
Middle School Bond	42,764
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL CONSTRCT EXPEND</b>	<b>\$ 471,238</b>

**SENIOR CENTER FUND REVENUE**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2020-21</u>
BV/Lex/Rock County	\$ 8,500
<b>TOTAL SENIOR CENTER REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 8,500</b>

**SENIOR CENTER FUND EXPENDITURES**

Utilities and Operation Costs	\$ 8,500
<b>TOTAL SENIOR CENTER EXPEND</b>	<b>\$ 8,500</b>

## SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND REVENUE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2020-21</u>
Nutrition Revenues	\$ 441,105
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL NUTRITION REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 441,105</b>

<b>SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	
Nutrition Expenses	\$ 441,105
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL NUTRITION EXPEND</b>	<b>\$ 441,105</b>

Mayor Fitzgerald closed Public Hearing #2.

### **ADG #5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 16, 2020:**

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to approve the above-mentioned minutes, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

### **ADG #6 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 a specific item listed on the agenda, open for public comment, will be heard when that item is considered.**

No one spoke.

### **ADG #7 REPORTS:**

#### **1.) Mayor**

None.

#### **2.) City Manager**

Mr. Scudder said he found out about a bill that went through the Federal level. It was called the American Water Infrastructure Act - 2018 water study. Certain size jurisdictions must do a water study, so he has been talking to Tom, Hunter, and Corey Henson about the study. The study must be completed by sometime in 2022. Mr. Scudder said the study will cost between \$8,000.00 to \$12,000.00. He said we have been getting some pretty good census data.

Councilman Cooper wanted to know what the water study is studying.

Mr. Scudder said it will be studying the water usage, the infrastructure, how you safeguard the availability of your water.

Councilman Cooper wanted to know if the study was an environmental quality study.

Mr. Scudder then said that all 3 jurisdictions went together and got a State grant for the census: each jurisdiction got \$2,500.00. Kristina Ramsey has been heading this up for Buena Vista. She did a really good job putting the grant request together. We are going to do advertisements in the Advocate and the Gazette. We are also going to do some fliers, a banner, and some posters. The people that are listening this evening really need to spread the word. We need to get a really good count because it benefits roads and schools and all kinds of social related issues.

### **3.) City Attorney**

None.

### **4.) Council Committee/Representative**

Councilman Henson wanted to know if the water study would include some of the old infrastructure.

Mr. Scudder said it does include some of the old infrastructure. He said they have been talking to Hunter Young about it. He knows about as much about the City's water system as anyone.

Vice-Mayor Clark said that at one time Hunter was working on getting a map on where all the water lines are.

Mr. Scudder said that is the I & I study for water going into our sewage plant. We have done the mapping. There are some remaining pieces to be done for that. We have that project on hold due to our budget issues. He opined we will probably complete the study within the next 6 months.

Mr. Scudder said he is trying to get a grant to pay for the remaining portion of the study. He said we have also been doing some water modeling. There are 3 studies we are working on right now. We have Joe Howard from AMT back on the scene for paving. They are going to be putting the timeline together for the paving project for Route 60 and Route 501.

Councilman Henson wanted to know if the cemetery is ready for Mother's Day this weekend.

Mr. Scudder said the cemetery looks good.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**None.**



**NEW BUSINESS:**

**NB #1 FIRST READING OF THE ORDINANCE FOR THE FY2021**

**BUDGET APPROVAL:**

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to read the Ordinance by title only, seconded by Vice-Mayor Clark.

Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows:

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
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		

Ms. Wheeler read the following Ordinance by title only:

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET**

**ORDINANCE**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, the City Council on May 7, 2020 held a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, the City Council during a series of work sessions, has developed a balanced budget for fiscal year 2021.

**Now, BE IT STILL FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA**, that the following budget be and the same is hereby adopted for fiscal planning purposes:

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>PROPOSED 2020-21</u></b>
General Property Taxes	\$6,573,620
Other Local Taxes	1,965,500
Permits, Privilege Fees	20,775
Fines and Forfeitures	76,420
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**WATER & SEWER REVENUE**  
**PROPOSED**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>2020-21</u></b>
Charge for Services	\$2,554,791
<b>WATER &amp; Sewer Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,554,791</b>

**WATER & SEWER EXPENDITURES**

Administration & Engineering	\$	195,379
Water Maintenance		344,246
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<b>WATER &amp; SEWER FUND EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$2,554,791</b>

**PARKS AND RECREATION REVENUE**

	<b>PROPOSED <u>2020-21</u></b>
Charge for Services & Misc. Revenue	193,800
Transfer From General Fund	<u>132,997</u>
<b>TOTAL PARK FUND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 326,797</b>

**PARKS AND RECREATION EXPENDITURES**

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**GOLF COURSE REVENUE**

	<b>PROPOSED <u>2020-21</u></b>
<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	
Charge for Services	\$ 461,786
<b>TOTAL GOLF COURSE REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 461,786</b>

**GOLF COURSE EXPENDITURES**

Golf Operations	\$ 461,786
<b>TOTAL GOLF COURSE EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 461,786</b>

**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION REVENUE**

	<b>PROPOSED <u>2020-21</u></b>
<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	
City Funds	\$ 313,065
Transfer School Operation Fund	140,000
Interest Recovery	<u>18,173</u>
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCT REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 471,238</b>

**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES**

Literary Loan	\$	375,000
Bus Lease		53,474
Middle School Loan		<u>42,764</u>

TOTAL SCHOOL CONSTRCT EXPEND \$ 471,238

**SENIOR CENTER FUND REVENUE**

PROPOSED

**ITEM**

**2020-21**

BV/Lex/Rock County	\$	8,500
TOTAL SENIOR CENTER REVENUE	\$	8,500

**SENIOR CENTER FUND EXPENDITURES**

Utilities and Operation Costs	\$	8,500
TOTAL SENIOR CENTER EXPEND	\$	8,500

**SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND REVENUE**

PROPOSED

**ITEM**

**2020-21**

Nutrition Revenues	\$	441,105
TOTAL SCHOOL NUTRITION REVENUE	\$	441,105

**SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND EXPENDITURES**

Nutrition Expenses	\$	441,105
TOTAL SCHOOL NUTRITION EXPEND	\$	441,105

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William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Council

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Date of Adoption

**NB #2 FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TAX RATES FOR THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA FY2021:**

Ms. Wheeler read the following Ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TAX RATES FOR THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021**

**ORDINANCE**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA**, that in accordance with Section 26-1 of the Code of the City of Buena Vista, there is hereby levied upon taxable real estate an effective tax rate of One Dollar and Thirty-Three Cents (\$1.33) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation for the fiscal year 2021, said levy to be based upon the value of such property as of July 1, 2020.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that there is hereby levied upon Personal Property a tax rate of Five Dollars and Eighty-Five Cents (\$5.85) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation for the calendar year 2021, said levy to be based upon the value of such property as of January 1, 2020.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that there is hereby levied upon all public service corporation real estate the sum of One Dollar and Thirty-Three Cents (\$1.33) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation for the fiscal year 2021, said levy to be based upon the value of such property as of January 1, 2020.

**BE IT STILL ORDAINED**, that the Refuse fee shall be Twenty-One Dollars and zero cents (\$21.00) per month residential and shall be Eight Dollars and Forty cents (\$8.40) per unit commercial.

**BE IT STILL FURTHER ORDAINED**, that all other tax rates not expressly defined above shall remain the same until further action by council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Adoption

Councilman Henson told Mr. Kearney that we are having problems with roosters in the City. He said the Ordinance says that chickens have to be contained but he wanted to know if chickens and roosters are the same thing. Mr. Kearney said they are the same. He said he would double check the Code of Virginia and advise his findings.

**NB #3 FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA FOR THE FY2021:**

Ms. Wheeler read the following Ordinance:

**ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA**, that in accordance with 4-1, Budgets and Appropriations, of the Charter of Buena Vista, funds to support the operations of the City for the Fiscal Year 2021 is hereby appropriated effective July 1, 2020 in the amount of \$18,963,773 and in accordance with the following provisions:

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 14,699,556</b>
<b>Water &amp; Sewer Fund</b>	<b>2,554,791</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Fund</b>	<b>326,797</b>
<b>Golf Course Fund</b>	<b>461,786</b>
<b>School Construction Fund</b>	<b>471,238</b>
<b>Senior Center Fund</b>	<b>8,500</b>
<b>School Nutrition Fund</b>	<b><u>441,105</u></b>
<b>Total FY 2021 Budget</b>	<b>\$18,963,773</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Adoption

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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WILLIAM H. FITZGERALD, MAYOR

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Dawn M. Wheeler, Clerk of Council