

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA  
REGULAR (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 1, 2020**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular (Virtual) Council meeting on Thursday, October 1, 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. Councilman Cooper delivered the prayer.

**ADG #2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

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

**ADG #3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING (VIRTUAL) HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2020:**

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to approve the above-mentioned minutes, 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 a specific item listed on the agenda, open for public comment, will be heard when that item is considered.**

Mr. Tom Roberts was the first to address Council. Mr. Roberts wanted to speak to Council concerning the acquisition of the town square. He said that Council has seen the memo he wrote. The BVEDA met yesterday and this is one of the items they discussed. He just wanted to check in with everybody and make sure everybody is on the same page. We need to move quickly because the auction is at the end of this month. In the memo he referenced the EDA purchasing the land which will be the easiest and most cost-effective option. There may also be some grant funding options that would cover the acquisition costs.

Mr. Scudder opined that Council would have to have this discussion about purchasing the town square as an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

Ms. Kristina Ramsey was the next to speak. She advised Council that we have received notification of a website going around social media that was misleading

and made it seem like the City was taking payments for water bills online. She said that on that website it states very clearly that the City does not take payments online. She opined the website is not a threat and we have posted on social media and the City website that we do not accept payments online.

## **ADG #5 REPORTS:**

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

None.

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

Mr. Scudder asked Ms. Ramsey to say a little more about some of the things that are going on at the park.

Ms. Ramsey said they have been working on an event that will be called Maury Fest since last year. She has also been talking about a grant received from DHCD. Because of COVID they have had to switch gears a little bit. They decided to do some outdoor workshops to bring awareness to the outdoors with the potential still to have a large festival. Tomorrow there will be a trail run and a family run at the park. They want to have another one in November. Ms. Ramsey said she talked to Mr. Scudder today about how she can get Council involved. She suggested maybe they just volunteer to be there and chat with people. She will send a schedule of events to Council. Ms. Ramsey said she is excited to get this project going.

Mr. Scudder said the Parks/Rec. Committee has also been involved in getting this project started.

Ms. Ramsey opined the idea for the workshops is to get people involved in the events and to bring some partners in.

Mr. Scudder advised that tomorrow Hunter and RKK are supposed to give us some outline on the WWTP and going forward with a professional engineering report on it. We continue to work on the USDA grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the preliminary engineering report.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if Hunter and RKK were going to be here tomorrow.

Mr. Scudder said they will not be here. They will email the information to him and he will forward it to Council. Today Public Works was doing a lot of pothole repairs. If anyone knows of other potholes that need to be filled, please email them to Mr. Scudder. Mr. Scudder said he does not know if people have noticed but there is quite a bit of construction going on in the City. He said he is seeing additions to homes, new homes being built, some of the projects that came through the Planning Commission are being done. We have had numerous inquiries through Tom's office about some other construction projects.

Councilman Coffey asked Mr. Scudder if he has heard anything about the 7-11 project.

Mr. Scudder said that he has been told recently that the project is on hold for now.

Mr. Roberts said he does not have an update on the 7-11 project. Mayor Fitzgerald wanted to know if Mr. Scudder had any numbers yet on updating our computers.

Mr. Scudder said he does not, but they are getting close to having the figures. One of the things that has come up about the CARES Act is giving hazard duty pay to public safety people. That would be a stipend. Rockbridge County is talking about something in the neighborhood of \$2,000.00. He opined that Council needs to talk about this a little bit more. We cannot use the CARES money for hazard duty pay. That is the new interpretation that has come out on the CARES money. In other ways we are supplanting under the provisional aspect of the CARES money we are making law enforcement salaries. In a way that enhances the fund balance. Any stipend that is given for hazard duty pay will have to come out of the general fund balance.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if Rockbridge County's stipend is coming out of their general fund balance.

Mr. Scudder said it is.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined that by the time we upgrade our computers we are not going to have that kind of money.

Mr. Scudder said they need to have a discussion with the CARES Committee next Thursday.

Mr. Kearney suggested that the CARES Committee give Council an update at the October 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Council Member Hickman opined that Council needs to look at the things the City must have and then looking at the balance to see what can be done.

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

None.

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

Council Member Hickman said she has asked before about the possibility of selling the lots at the playground up near Locus Avenue. She wanted to know if Council could move forward on selling the lots and taking some of the equipment to GMP. She suggested that the funds received from selling the lots could be used for the youth in the City.

Mayor Fitzgerald said we will put this item on the agenda for our next Council meeting.

Councilman Henson said Council should also look at the playground on 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Scudder said that Tom Roberts has some good information that we can put together about the playgrounds.

Councilman Henson said they had a very good Public Works/Public Safety meeting yesterday. He said it was very productive. He also reported that Vista Links is doing very well. There was a tournament at

the golf course on Saturday and after the tournament, another 50 rounds of golf were played.

Councilman Coffey opined the Public Works/Public Safety meeting was a great one. He thanked the Public Works employees for the job they are doing. Buena Vista has a tremendous amount of grass to mow and they have done an outstanding job mowing this year.

Councilman Henson wanted to know how many acres of grass the City must mow.

Mr. Scudder said he will try to find out.

Vice-Mayor Clark reminded everyone of the Blues Foundation golf tournament that will be held on October 17. All the proceeds will go to the Blues Foundation to award scholarships for both students and in the classrooms. They have finished the 5<sup>th</sup> week of school with more children coming back every week for face to face learning.

## **CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:**

### **ADG #6 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION:**

#### **APPROVAL OF MR. STEVE BALDRIDGE OR MR. WAYNE OYLER TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION:**

Motion was made by Councilman Coffey to appoint Mr. Baldrige to the Board of Equalization, seconded by Vice-Mayor Clark, carried by Council.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**None.**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **NB #1 ACCEPTANCE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LISA CLARK'S RESIGNATION:**

Ms. Wheeler read the resignation of Vice-Mayor Lisa Clark.

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to accept the resignation of Vice-Mayor Lisa Clark, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

Councilman Henson wanted to figure out how Council is going to replace Vice-Mayor Clark.

Mayor Fitzgerald said we can put the ad in the newspaper and start the interviews now. He asked Ms. Wheeler to start the advertisement for Vice-Mayor Clark's replacement on Council. The ad will run for 4 weeks until the end of October.

Vice-Mayor Clark said that when Councilman Coffey was appointed, he filled out an application and attached a letter of interest with it.

**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