

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AND EXECUTIVE SESSION
JANUARY 21, 2021
(VIRTUAL)**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular (Virtual) Council meeting and Executive Session on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:
Melvin Henson
Stanley Coffey
Tyson Cooper

Mayor Bill Fitzgerald
Cheryl Hickman
Vice-Mayor Clark
Danny Staton

Members Absent: None.

ADG #1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Vice-Mayor Clark delivered the opening prayer.

ADG #2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Hickman, carried by Council.

ADG #3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING (VIRTUAL) AND EXECUTIVE SESSION JANUARY 7, 2021: THE EXECUTIVE SESSION (VIRTUAL) HELD ON January 12, 2021:

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Clark to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2021 Regular Council meeting and Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Coffey and carried by Council. Vice-Mayor Clark motioned to approve the Executive Session held on January 12, 2021, seconded by Councilman Coffey. The January 12, 2021 minutes was approved by Council, with the exception of Vice-Mayor Clark who abstained.

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.

No one spoke.

ADG #5 REPORTS:

1.) Mayor:

None.

2.) City Manager:

None.

3.) City Attorney:

None.

4.) Council Committee/Representative:

Council Member Hickman advised that the last Parks/Rec Committee meeting was more detailed and they have started some of the projects. Some of the projects discussed were direction signs in the park; signs in the camping areas; electrical and water upgrades involving Public Works. They are working on some of the electrical problems now. The things they have discussed are low cost improvements and will be very budget friendly. They discussed having bike and kayak rentals at the park. They will have a few to see how it goes. They also talked about playground equipment and slides for the pool. She opined these are smart and good improvements. They will need a lot of volunteers to keep the costs down. Councilman Henson said the City needs to work on the WWTP repairs and that Council need to start working on the budget.

Councilman Coffey opined that the engineers need to address Council concerning the repairs at the WWTP. He said the City is looking at a lot of money for the repairs. He feels maybe Council should go back and rethink some of the repairs. A process has not been picked for the repairs. Council does know the cost of the engineering report.

Mr. Scudder said there are a series of options with estimated costs.

Councilman Coffey said again that Council needs to hear the plans. He said the water must be included with the WWTP or we will not get the grants.

Mayor Fitzgerald said a report should be given to Council so it can be discussed.

Councilman Henson advised that Channel 18 is not working at this time. He also wanted to know if the Council candidates could be included in the Executive Session.

Mr. Kearney said they cannot be included since no one has been sworn in.

ADG #6 CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

THE ROCKBRIDGE AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD:

MS. JANET JOLLY'S TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2020. THIS IS A 2 YEAR TERM AND THE FIFTH TIME IT HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA. MS. JOLLY IS NOT WILLING TO SERVE AGAIN. ADVERTISED OCTOBER 21, 2020 THE NEWS GAZETTE: WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 OCTOBER 14, 2020 – NO APPLICANTS

Vice-Mayor Clark stated that she would be interested in serving on this board. Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to appoint Vice-Mayor Clark to the RACSB, seconded by Council Member Hickman, carried by Council.

THE ROCKBRIDGE DISABILITY SERVICES BOARD:

MS. PAM ROBEY'S TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2020. THIS IS A 4 YEAR TERM AND THE FIFTH TIME IT HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA. MS. ROBEY IS NOT WILLING TO SERVE AGAIN. ADVERTISED OCTOBER 21, 2020 THE NEWS GAZETTE: WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 OCTOBER 14, 2020 – NO APPLICANTS

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

THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

MR. PRES MANUAL'S TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2020. THIS IS A 4 YEAR TERM AND THE FIFTH TIME IT HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA. MR. MANUAL IS NOT WILLING TO SERVE AGAIN. ADVERTISED OCTOBER 21, 2020 THE NEWS GAZETTE: WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 OCTOBER 14, 2020 – NO APPLICANTS

An application was received on January 21, 2021 from Ms. Kristie Gibbons and Mr. Brent Styler expressed a desire to serve on this Commission. Mr. Styler will submit an application and this item will be carried over to the next Council meeting.

THE BUENA VISTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:
MR. LEON BARKER HAS RESIGNED FROM THE BUENA VISTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD. THIS IS A 4 YEAR TERM AND THE FOURTH TIME IT HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA. ADVERTISED NOVEMBER 18, 2020 THE NEWS GAZETTE: WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 NOVEMBER 12, 2020-

NO APPLICANTS

Vice-Mayor Clark expressed her desire to serve on the BVEDA. Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to appoint Vice-Mayor Clark to the BVEDA, effective February 1, 2021, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

Vice-Mayor Clark advised that the School Board has formed a committee for researching the need for a new school. They would like to have some Council members serve on this committee. It was decided that Councilman Cooper, Mayor Fitzgerald and Tom Roberts would serve on this committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1 ROBINSON, FARMER, COX WILL PRESENT THE FINAL REPORT FOR THE FY2020 BUDGET:

Ms. Sadie Gibson and Ms. Melisa Hemleck from Robinson, Farmer, Cox presented the final report for the FY2020 budget. **(SEE REPORT IN MINUTE BOOK)**

NB #2 COUNCIL TO INTERVIEW PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT TO CITY COUNCIL:

Council interviewed two prospective candidates for appointment to City Council to replace Vice-Mayor Clark who resigned. They interviewed Mr. Steve Webb and Mr. Steve Baldrige.

Council had some discussion on carrying this item over to the next Council meeting and have an Executive Session to discuss the candidates. The majority of Council wanted to make the selection at this meeting. Motion was made by Councilman Stanley Coffey to appoint Mr. Steve Webb to the vacant seat of Vice-Mayor Clark, seconded by Council Member Hickman.

Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows for the appointment of Mr. Steve Webb to serve on Council:

	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		

Mr. Webb was advised that he would have to be sworn in for office not before February 1, 2021 and no later than February 4, 2021.

NB #3 PROCLAMATION FOR VICE-MAYOR LISA CLARK:

Councilman Cooper read the following Proclamation for Vice-Mayor Lisa Clark:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, MS. LISA CLARK has faithfully served the City of Buena Vista from January 1, 2012, to January 31, 2021 as a member of City Council; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Clark faithfully fulfilled the duties of a City Council member with the highest integrity and performed many acts of kindness that enriched the lives of many of the citizens of the City of Buena Vista and the surrounding area ; and

WHEREAS, the City of Buena Vista is extremely grateful to

Ms. Clark for her dedication in not only serving the City of Buena Vista in this capacity but also her valuable input to the Boards and Committees she has served on.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, on this date, January 21, 2021, by the Mayor, the Buena Vista City Council and the citizens of the City of Buena Vista that Ms. Clark be honored for her years of service.

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor
The City of Buena Vista

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- (1.) ACCORDING TO SECTION 2.2-3711 (A) (7) OF THE 1950 CODE OF VIRGINIA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING WITH LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING THE ACA LAWSUIT.**

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Clark to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE MEETING

MOTION: Vice-Mayor Clark
SECOND: Councilman Coffey

DATE: January 21, 2021

WHEREAS, the Buena Vista City Council has convened an executive meeting as follows:

- 1.) ACCORDING TO SECTION 2.2-3711 (A) (7) OF THE 1950 CODE OF VIRGINIA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING WITH LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING THE ACA LAWSUIT:**

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: None.

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None.

Brian Kearney
City Attorney

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

Mayor Fitzgerald
Mr. Cooper

Ms. Hickman
Mr. Coffey

Mr. Staton
Vice-Mayor Clark

Mr. Henson

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

Brian Kearney
City Attorney

William H. Fitzgerald