

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JULY 21, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Fitzgerald Vice-Mayor Hickman
Councilman Henson Councilman Staton
Councilman Cooper Councilman Webb

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Coffey

ADG #1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Councilman Cooper delivered the opening prayer.

ADG #2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Councilman Cooper made motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice-Mayor Hickman, carried by Council.

ADG #3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 16, 2022, PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND THE JULY 7, 2022, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Vice-Mayor Hickman made motion to approve the above-mentioned minutes, seconded by Councilman Webb, carried by Council with the exception of Councilman Cooper who abstained from both sets of minutes and Councilman Webb abstained from the July 7, 2022, minutes.

ADG #4: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS: Citizens who desire to speak to Council will be recognized at this time. Please limit your statement to three(3) minutes.

Mr. Jamie Goodin gave a report on Main Street BV. He opined that a lot has been happening. Mr. Goodin said he knows that you cannot see it yet and people are concerned about that. He said the first quarter was getting the right people in place. Second quarter was planning what their projects would be and the third quarter was execution. He said they are right on track. They have already printed and distributed about 250 rack cards that are in downtown businesses. He received two requests yesterday for their second batch of cards. They have "open" flags in the works. All of the flags will look the same and be offered to businesses for \$15.00 each. They are getting ready to order planters and benches to go downtown. A club has reached out to them to take care of the planters.

They are working on artistic bike racks. They have been meeting with the existing businesses every month. They have applied for four grants. They did not get one but have the other three outstanding. They have their tax-exempt status and have been redesignated a Main Street affiliate. They hosted Virginia Main Street on a downtown tour. They have served on the Virginia Main Street Strategic Committee. They have also served on the Work From Home pilot. They have everything lined up to become officially designated. All of their events are in the back half of the year. Battle of the Bands will be held on August 6, 2022, at GMP. They have received \$9,000.00 in grants and from donations from local businesses , to support the event. They have spent \$1,500.00 on regional advertising. They are partnering with the Arts Council for Mountain Day this year. They are also planning a SVU scavenger hunt at orientation that will give the new students an idea of what is downtown. Downtown Trick or Treat will also be held this year. They have secured a 17-foot Christmas tree for the Town Square this year. He said that things have been potentially invisible, but it is not because they have not been happening. He opined that volunteerism is dwindling the last five or six years.

Councilman Cooper asked Mr. Goodin if he considered this slow, what does fast look like. He opined that is a lot of things happening.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said this has actually branched out from the Town Square. She opined we are not really doing anything with that part of it. She thought it was supposed to center on that and she wants to know what they are doing to incorporate the Town Square.

Mr. Goodin said that right now it is two-fold. In talking with Kristina and Tom the status of the development of the Town Square right now is in the hands of staff to get the design proposal out. They facilitated the Community Vision Statement which has been created and included in the RFP. They are now waiting for development to happen.

Mr. Tyree advised that Tom Roberts just did the design contract.

Mr. Roberts said in the next few days the landscape architect will be getting a plan back to us. We did receive a grant that will pay for the design work and procure a designer who we have almost signed a contract with. There will be a press release in the next few weeks. Later in August they will get information to Council about the engagement process. They have the engagement documents that was done before that includes structures, landscaping, where the planters will go, where the fence will go, etc. It will be a full design so that we will be ready to build it.

Mr. Goodin said they have been working with Carol Watson to help with the Town Square. They have been working with her to figure out the mechanics of setting up a business. They are talking about plans for the Fall. They thought about having the Battle of the Bands at the Town Square but decided it would be better to have it at GMP. There will be other events held downtown. This year they are partnering with the Arts Council for Mountain Day. He said he is learning a lot from the Arts Council and would like to make a profit from Mountain Day. Mr. Goodin said that downtown is their focus

Mr. Brent Styler was the next to speak. He said he wanted to present a quick note about the GCCI which is the regular greenhouse gas initiative. Basically, it increases the cost of future electricity needs. It is a political climate initiative. The greatest affect will be on the lower income citizens. We need to talk to our representatives and tell them we may not like what they are doing. It will affect the City's budget. It will affect a house holds budget.

We will not know how much it will be until we get there. All the time we should be in contact with our elected representatives and let them know how we feel.

ADG #5: REPORTS:

1.) Mayor - None

2.) City Manager –

Mr. Tyree opened his report by advising there will be a closed session on July 27, 2022. We have a lot going on. They have started the electrical upgrades at GMP. He has given Corey approval to purchase the water piping that he will need to put in. The new sewer lines will be going in at the same time. They have about three-quarters of the upper campground dug up and have done some work. However, next week we will be doing a majority of the startup of the repairs. They should have a quote for the lower campground definitely by the next Council meeting. This will fall under emergency procurement because people are still getting shocked. It is the same set-up as the upper campground. It is very similar with the wire system, a two-wire system versus a four-wire system that is basically not grounded. It needs to be grounded at the pedestals. It could shock someone and will be deemed an emergency.

3.) City Attorney - None

4.) Council Committee/Representative –

Councilman Henson started his report by advising there are events planned at GMP through the month of October. There was a very productive Public Works/Public Safety meeting, and they got a lot of things done. There was also a good Parks/Recreation meeting. Some of the things that need to be done at GMP are the electrical and the pool. If major improvements are not done at the pool, we might not get to use it next year. They are working on the playground. There will be a ball game between the Fire Department and the Police Department and all the profits will go towards the new playground equipment. They are trying to make the park more inviting for visitors and community members.

Councilman Webb advised that he has had compliments on the newly painted curbing and the citizens really like it. He also noticed they are painting the new school signs and citizens really appreciate it. We still have a lot to do but we are working on things. He then mentioned the vandalism at GMP. He opined that a pole with a game camera on it about thirty feet in the air would help to see who is coming and going at the park.

Vice-Mayor Hickman advised the cameras were addressed at the meeting last night. They have been ordered and will be installed as soon as they come in.

Mr. Tyree said the cameras should be received by tomorrow.

Councilman Webb opined that vandalism needs to be prosecuted.

Mr. Tyree advised that Public Works is planning to restripe the roads as well.

Councilman Webb wanted to know if we have someone monitoring the gas company to make sure they come back and fix what they have torn up.

Mr. Tyree said the gas company has repaired some of Orchard Street around the curb and they will come back and finish fixing the road.

Councilman Staton said in the past when the City did repairs, you always had to have a water truck and a broom. He explained that once you finished each day you cleaned the roads up. The gas company is not doing that. The City does not have anything on the books that requires the gas company to clean up the roads.

Mr. Tyree used as an example VDOT and Route 60 and Rockbridge. If the gas company wanted to cut across Route 60, they would have to have a permit and a bond. Right now, the City does not have any regulations for that. The gas company can come in here and not even tell us because we do not have any Ordinances or regulations as long as they repair what they are supposed to. Mr. Tyree said if Council would like to have some regulations it would mean only a simple change under the State code.

Councilman Henson said that paving will be going on in the City next week.

Mr. Tyree said that beginning on July 25, 2022, Adams is going to be paving 10th Street, the double decker at GMP, Savernake, Kanawha, and Lombardy Streets.

Mr. Roberts said that 29th Street will be paved in 2023.

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

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

WE HAVE AN OPENING ON THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS. THIS TERM WILL EXPIRE ON 12/31/23. THIS IS THE 8TH TIME THIS HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA. THE TERM WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY:

ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE MARCH 2, 2022: POSTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA: NO APPLICANTS

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

ROCKBRIDGE AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD:

MS. CHERYL HICKMAN HAS RESIGNED. HER TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 31, 2023. THIS IS THE 2ND TIME THIS HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA:

ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE JUNE 29, 2022: POSTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA JUNE 27, 2022: NO APPLICANTS

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

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1: MR. CHAD COFFEY FROM RARO TO UPDATE COUNCIL ON EVENTS:

Mr. Coffey started his report by saying he wanted to give Council a quick update on RARO. He said this past year was a record year for Buena Vista for participation with RARO. The

numbers this year are higher than they have ever been. The youth participation was 369-370 and the adults from Buena Vista outdid everybody with fifty-one participants in adult soft ball. He opined it has been a good year and are looking for things to improve. He thanked Public Works for working closely with RARO. Most of the registrations have been taken for Fall sports. They will start taking late fees after August 1, 2022. They have tried to improve on communication. They have updated their web site and starting August 1, 2022, they will be sending out a monthly newsletter.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know if anything had been done about using the middle school baseball field.

Mr. Coffey said that Vice-Mayor Hickman was referring to RARO using the baseball field inside of the wall at the Middle School. He has not heard anything about that possibility.

NB #2: MS. KRISTINA RAMSEY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, TO UPDATE COUNCIL ON EVENTS:

NB #3: DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF APRA FUND ALLOCATIONS:

Mr. Tyree started the discussion by saying we can hold off on most of the items but there are two that he would like to get approval on:

- 1.) A vehicle for Parks/Recreation
- 2.) A vehicle for the Sheriff's office

Both the park and the Sheriff's office are down a vehicle. We have gotten a quote from Sheriff Hamilton regarding a vehicle for the Sheriff's office. Sheriff Hamilton has been using his personal vehicle. The SUV that Danny Coleman drove is out of commission now. It is going to need a new engine. Based upon the age of the vehicle and the number of miles on the vehicle he does not know if it would be a good idea to try to fix it. It really does not suit their needs as well. They will need \$56,250.00 to purchase a FORD F150 vehicle and accessories. They will use the vehicle for animal control and to transport inmates.

Councilman Webb opined that it is technically a savings for the City with the police package on it.

Mr. Tyree said it is under State contract. The vehicle price is actually \$35,500.00 under State contract pricing with the rest of the cost for accessories. He said they talked to Ed Armentrout last night at the Parks/Recreation meeting. He has a couple of quotes on used vehicles that cost between \$20,000.00 and \$25,000.00 for a ¾ ton pickup truck. He will need that to haul lawn mowers. They have one lawn mower that weighs 4,000 pounds and a second one that they use at the cemetery and when they cut Dabney. Right now, they are driving through the golf course to eliminate hauling the mowers. In the next month they will not be able to drive through the golf course because that will be private property. He feels those are the pressing needs and the rest of it can be tabled. He would like to table the rest of them until he can get more accurate prices. These two are the most pressing and should be approved. Mr. Tyree said we need a budget allocation vote for both items.

Councilman Webb wanted to know if the park needs a ¾ ton pickup truck. He wanted to know if we already have the trailer.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said the trailer is in the quote.

Mr. Tyree said the vehicle is the most pressing. There is a trailer up there that belongs to Ed that they are using. The trailer that we got a quote on is a used trailer for \$5,000.00 to haul the mowers on. It depends on whether they want to purchase a new vehicle or a used vehicle. A new vehicle is about \$50,000.00 and a used one is about \$25,000.00. The trailer is \$5,000.00.

Councilman Webb said he understands they want a used \$25,000.00 ¾ Ton Pick-up truck. He wanted to know if the truck is with a dealer.

Mr. Tyree said the vehicle is with a dealer.

Councilman Webb opined that \$5,000.00 is a little high for a trailer. There is a trailer dealer in Rockbridge County, and you can get a trailer cheaper than \$5,000.00.

Councilman Henson wanted to know if the cheaper trailer could hold two mowers.

Mr. Tyree said the trailer quote is from Rockbridge.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said they needed an accurate quote before making a decision on what to purchase. She said that from what Edward told her they do need the ¾ ton truck and the trailer

Mr. Tyree said they do haul a mower that has three decks on it, so they need a larger trailer.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know how long the truck will last. She opined you do not want to pay \$25,000.00 for something that is not going to hold up.

Mr. Tyree said the warranty is probably not a long one.

Mr. Kearney said we can always get an extended warranty.

Councilman Webb wanted to know if the vehicle will be used in the winter to push snow.

Mr. Tyree said it will be used for work in the park during the winter and also to push snow.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know if Council was going to wait to see what makes sense of getting a new truck versus getting a used truck.

Mr. Tyree said they can do the price structure and bring it back to Council.

Councilman Webb said that \$25,000.00 for a used ¾ ton truck is not bad and wanted to know who looked at the truck.

Mr. Tyree said the Ed looked at the truck. It has been sold and no longer available.

Councilman Webb opined that the Sheriff's office really needs their truck.

Mr. Tyree said the park also really need theirs. He said we can go ahead and budget for a new one. We will still get price quotes

Councilman Webb said if we buy a new truck, we will have to spend another \$10,000.00 to put the snowplow on the truck.

Mayor Fitzgerald suggested they check prices on a used truck and a new truck to see which would be cheaper.

Councilman Cooper made motion to purchase the requested vehicle for the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Councilman Staton, carried by Council with the exception of Councilman Webb who abstained.

Mayor Fitzgerald suggested that Council allot up to \$30,000.00 for a truck for the park.

Vice-Mayor Hickman made motion to allot up to \$30,000.00 for a truck for the park, seconded by Councilman Webb, carried by Council.

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

Dawn Wheeler
Clerk of Council

William H. Fitzgerald
Mayor