



Mayor Fitzgerald said that he attended the SVU graduation. He said the event was very nice and they graduated 198 students.

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

Mr. Tyree started his report by saying he had sent Council some information on the pool. They were planning on meeting with the company tomorrow, but they cancelled. He is planning on meeting with them next week. He would like to get some options on the pool situation. This is something that will come up in the next month or two. We will want to use some ARCA funds to fix the infrastructure and determine what our long-term plan is for the pool. He advised that he and Mr. Kearney are going to meet with Hunter Young and RKK within the next week or so to discuss the next steps. We have submitted the application to DEQ for the WWTP. They will also discuss taking the next steps to get the City officially deemed fiscally distressed. Being

fiscally distressed will help us on some of the grants to get us some additional grant money and the General Assembly is looking for us to do so. We are trying to get on the JARR to show that we are fiscally distressed to help us get more grant dollars.

Councilman Cooper said he assumes there will be no long-term negative impact on the City by being fiscally distressed.

Mr. Tyree said there should not be any negative impact on the City by declaring we are fiscally distressed. He said that has been his concern, but he has been assured that it will not affect us in that capacity. It will only help to show that we are actually fiscally distressed. It should only benefit the City. He said that Public Works did a great job on fixing the spring box at GMP. It looks fantastic and it has opened up a few more camping spaces. He will try to send out pictures of the spring box to Council tomorrow. On June 2, Council will have a joint meeting with the School Board to discuss the feasibility study and some of the financial issues with the schools. The combined meeting will be held at the Parry McCluer Middle School.

Councilman Coffey said he thought that Council was just going to have a meeting with them to discuss the things that the Finance Committee has been talking about instead of discussing the feasibility study. He said that Council knows what the feasibility study shows.

Mayor Fitzgerald said that Dr. Francis is going to go over even more things. We will cancel our regular Council meeting and have a joint meeting with the School Board on June 2.

Councilman Coffey said it had been discussed at the Finance Committee meeting to sit down and discuss finances with the School Board. He said they actually wanted to meet with the Finance Committee only.

Councilman Cooper said that was his suggestion, but they wanted to have discussion between the School Board and City Council.

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

None.

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

Councilman Henson advised that the Fire Department held a food drive recently and it was a success. He said he has been attending a lot of meetings with Main Street Buena Vista and the Planning Commission. He and Mr. Tyree met at Natural Bridge and watch some pickle ball. Councilman Henson advised that the travel ball teams have been having tournaments at GMP on the weekends and they are drawing a crowd and going well.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if Mr. Emore had talked to Millie about other events going on in the park such as the Fiddler's Convention and the travel ball teams not using the fields while they are there.

Councilman Henson said that Mr. Emore should already have a list of the events planned for the park.

Councilman Webb said he has had three complaints this past week about the traffic light at Hardee's being so long. He opined the timer on the light is not correct. He said if you are coming from Lexington to Buena Vista when you get to the light at Hardee's you have to sit there for a minute to a minute and a half. According to the Code, the light should change every 30 seconds. He said the traffic light has not worked right for about a year and now with traffic picking up you can have traffic backed up all the way to the Stop In. He opined it is not safe to have traffic backed up there because of tractor trailers coming off the mountain with a load of logs. He said the light must be fixed.

Councilman Henson said it depends on what the cameras pick up. He said it should be a car a second. If there is a lot of traffic the light will go through two cycles and automatically kick over to Route 60.

### **ADG #7: 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 5TH 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.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**OB #1: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PROPOSED 2022/2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA:**

Mr. Tyree said the Budget/Finance Committee asked for three recommendations as follows:

- 1.) Add a WWTP operator. There is one person retiring from Public Works at the end of the year. Their salary will not completely offset the salary of a WWTP operator.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know what position was not going to be filled at Public Works.

Mr. Tyree said it is a position with the mowing crew.

- 2.) They also recommended that everyone be bumped up to \$12.00 per hour effective July 1, 2022.

- 3.) A 5% cost of living raise for all City employees.

Mayor Fitzgerald said he is glad the Budget/Finance Committee decided to give the 5% cost of living raise because that is something the employees really need.

Councilman Webb said that the 5% cost of living has not been decided. They will discuss it further tonight.

Vice-Mayor Hickman advised that the \$12.00 had already been decided.

Councilman Cooper said it will change a little bit because we were originally going to do it in January and will now do it in July. It will cost between \$7,000.00 and \$8,000.00 more to do it in July and not January.

Councilman Cooper made motion to read the Ordinance by title only with the three suggestions, seconded by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

Vice-Mayor Hickman asked someone to refresh her on the situation at the WWTP since she was not at the meeting when it was discussed.

Mr. Tyree advised that at the last Council meeting, Traci Montgomery, said that she could use another WWTP operator. There will be at least two operators that will be eligible for retirement in the upcoming year. They are not sure they will, but they are eligible. There is definitely a need because of the workload with the new process that is coming down.

Councilman Cooper said the thought is if we could start someone now at the beginning level and work them up to certifications would be easier than trying to find someone who is already certified.

Councilman Coffey opined we would not be able to hire anyone with a Class 3 or Class 2 license.

Councilman Webb announced that one of the employees at the WWTP is getting ready to have surgery.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if Jamie has a license.

Ms. Montgomery said he has a Class 3 license. She also said that another employee, Clay Hughes, is eligible to sit for the license. She also said she does not know how long Jamie will be off work.

Councilman Cooper opined if he were going out for surgery, he probably would not want the details to be talked about and it should not be discussed.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said she is trying to figure out why another employee is needed at the WWTP.

Mr. Tyree said they actually had additional employees in the past and they have never been able to recover the loss of the employees. There are not enough employees to run the WWTP.

Mr. Kearney wanted to know the specific changes that are being made before the Ordinance is read by title only.

The three changes are as follows:

- 1.) Add a WWTP operator. There is one person retiring from Public Works at the end of the year. Their salary will not completely offset the salary of a WWTP operator. (Public Works Budget)
- 2.) They also recommended that everyone be bumped up to \$12.00 per hour effective July 1, 2022. (Every Department's Budget)

3.) A 5% cost of living raise for all City employees. (Every Department's Budget)

Ms. Wheeler read the following Ordinance by title only as amended with the three changes listed above.

**ORDINANCE – ORD 22-06**  
**PROPOSED 2022/2023 MUNICIPAL**  
**BUDGET THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA AS AMENDED**

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>PROPOSED</u></b> <b><u>2022-23</u></b>
General Property Taxes	\$6,692,980
Other Local Taxes	2,161,910
Permits, Privilege Fees	20,775
Fines and Forfeitures	76,420
Earnings from Investments	3,000
Charge for Services	789,783
Miscellaneous Revenue	259,397
Non-Categorical Aid from Virginia	681,919
Shared Expenses	989,156
Categorical Aid from Virginia	3,176,650
Categorical Aid Federal	213,170
Transfers - Other Funds	<u>10,000</u>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$15,075,160</b>

**GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

City Council	\$	39,548
<b>City Manager</b>		<b>156,033</b>

City Attorney	70,000
Information Technology	136,000
<b>Finance Director</b>	<b>289,462</b>
Independent Auditor	64,800
<b>Commissioner of the Revenue</b>	<b>228,049</b>
Reassessment	33,000
Board of Equalization	3,000
<b>City Treasurer</b>	<b>303,587</b>
Insurance	70,700
Electoral Board	160,238
Circuit Court	6,234
General District Court	7,020
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court	33,610
<b>Clerk of the Circuit Court</b>	<b>260,900</b>
<b>City Sheriff</b>	<b>433,685</b>
<b>Commonwealth's Attorney</b>	<b>265,160</b>
<b>Criminal Justice Services</b>	<b>81,125</b>
<b>Police Department</b>	<b>1,884,096</b>
Fire Department	163,500
Rescue Squad	110,903
Probation Officer	3,000
Magistrate	425
Medical Examiner	150
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>131,992</b>
<b>Planning</b>	<b>231,401</b>
<b>Administration &amp; Engineering</b>	<b>310,324</b>
<b>Street Maintenance</b>	<b>1,167,219</b>
Streetlights	73,000
<b>Refuse Collection Department</b>	<b>409,462</b>
Refuse Disposal	300,000
<b>Maintenance of Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>461,136</b>
<b>Maintenance of Greenhill Cemetery</b>	<b>44,994</b>
General Tax Relief	80,000
Retiree Medical Plan	45,000
Central Dispatch	406,964
School Fund	2,293,803

Regional Jail	736,108
<b>Transfers to Other Funds</b>	<b>351,843</b>
Debt Service	222,230
Social Services	2,300,000
Non-Profit Agencies	<u>447,696</u>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$14,817,398</b>

**WATER REVENUE**

	PROPOSED
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Charge for Services	<u>\$1,374,679</u>
WATER Fund Revenues	\$1,374,679

**WATER EXPENDITURES**

<b>Water Administration</b>	<b>104,494</b>
<b>Water Maintenance</b>	<b>374,553</b>
<b>Water Production</b>	<b>291,544</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	<b><u>604,089</u></b>
<b>WATER FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$1,374,679</b>

**SEWER REVENUE**

	PROPOSED
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Charge for Services	<u>\$1,201,927</u>
Sewer Fund Revenues	\$1,201,927

**SEWER EXPENDITURES**





TOTAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCT REVENUE \$ 42,764

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES

Middle School Loan 42,764

TOTAL SCHOOL CONSTRCT EXPEND \$ 42,764

SENIOR CENTER FUND REVENUE

PROPOSED

ITEM

2022-23

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

2022-23

Nutrition Revenues \$ 656,247

TOTAL SCHOOL NUTRITION REVENUE \$ 656,247

SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND EXPENDITURES

Nutrition Expenses \$ 656,247

TOTAL SCHOOL NUTRITION EXPEND \$ 656,247

This Ordinance will be effective thirty days after adoption.

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

DATE:

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Councilman Henson made motion to adopt the above Ordinance amended with the three changes, seconded by Councilman Cooper.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know with the changes, how much money would we be putting in the general fund. She said she wants to make sure, with the changes, we are in danger of not meeting our obligations.

Mr. Tyree advised with the three changes we would put approximately \$257,000.00 in the fund balance. With the retirement of a person from Public Works and filling that position we will put approximately \$300,000.00 in the fund balance. The \$257,000.00 is showing all employees so when the person that is retiring comes off the amount will go down.

Councilman Webb wanted to know if the amount would raise back up when we put a new employee at the WWTP.

Mayor Fitzgerald said that Mr. Tyree was already counting the new employee.

Mr. Tyree said that right now it is counting both employees: one that is leaving and one that is coming.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know why we would not fill the position again at Public Works. He opined if he is of no use to the City in that position, why did we not put him in another position.

Mr. Tyree replied he is of use to the City and ideally, we would fill that position. This is one of the things that the Budget/Finance Committee felt we could eliminate. He opined the position is absolutely needed. Public Works has a lot to mow.

Councilman Coffey opined we do not need to get rid of anybody. If we do not fill the position, we are saying we really do not need that person to begin with.

Councilman Cooper said we are not really getting rid of anyone. The person is retiring.

Mr. Tyree stated that he and Corey Henson have been working on Public Works. Unfortunately, Public Works has gotten into the cycle of cutting a lot of grass that we should not be cutting. We are taking on more than our responsibility as far as mowing grass. We are mowing private properties. Corey has done a great job trying to cut that back. Through that there may be some changes where we would not have to replace someone. Corey has really been working hard on making sure we are not mowing private property. There may be some cost savings there due to the hard work that Corey has been doing to make sure we are only mowing City property.

Councilman Cooper stated that in the current budget the money has not been cut out. The determination between now and when the employee retires is whether we need to keep the position or not.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know with the 5% raise for our employees the \$257,000.00 would be including everything.

Councilman Cooper made motion to approve the budget with the three changes, seconded by Vice-Mayor Hickman.

Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows:

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

**OB #2: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PROPOSED 2022/2023 TAX RATES BUDGET THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA:**

Councilman Cooper moved to read the following Ordinance by title only since no changes have been made, seconded by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

Ms. Wheeler read the following Ordinance by title only.

Councilman Cooper made motion to approve the Ordinance, seconded by Vice-Mayor Hickman.

Councilman Coffey suggested that the City charge the citizens 100% for personal property tax and then rebate them 15%. To him, people seeing getting something back in the mail would look good on the City.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined that would not really change anything and it would create a lot of work for the staff.

Councilman Coffey said if he got a check back after he pays his taxes saying this is what the City is giving back to help with taxes it would be much more appreciated than if someone doesn't even know that they are going to get it.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said instead of doing that could we say on the tax bill what the savings is.

Councilman Coffey said the reason he bought it up was because he saw it on tv or the newspaper where a county was doing that.

Councilman Cooper said that Henrico County does that. His sister lives there and she complained to him about how they charged her and are sending a rebate back to her. He said when they talked about doing it, he thought it was a cool idea. After talking to her he realized that people were upset about it.

Councilman Coffey opined that the citizens have been taxed and taxed for years. If they saw a rebate, it would make them feel better.

Ms. Ashton Dorton, Commissioner of the Revenue, stated that in the past we have charged 100% but this year we charged 85%.

Councilman Cooper said we have already mailed out the bills, but he thinks Councilman Coffey's point is if there is a simple way of letting people know what we did then we should do it. No one knows that the City has helped them. We need to let the citizens know we are trying to help them.

Ms. Mary Lee Huffman, Treasurer, explained they placed an ad in the newspaper explaining the tax rates and that 85% has been given. If we were to redo the tickets, it would cost \$1,500.00 in postage alone. It cost \$165.00 to advertise in the newspaper. The tax tickets were mailed out on April 29. Kristina helped explaining by putting it on our website.

Councilman Coffey suggested that we put a card in with the tax ticket explaining what was done this year might help. Since the tickets have already been mailed out maybe this is something we can do next year.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said with inflation and everything being so high people are struggling. That is one of the reasons to try and get the information out. The City did not have a choice in the rate, it came down from the State.

Ms. Huffman explained that we will accept partial payments to help the citizens. There are also people that are paying next year's taxes now.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know if the tickets show what the difference would be if we had used 100%.

Ms. Huffman said it does not show that on the tax ticket.

**ORDINANCE- ORD 22-07**  
**PROPOSED 2022/2023 TAX RATES**  
**BUDGET THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA**

**The City of Buena Vista will conduct a public hearing on May 5, 2022, at or about 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be conducted to receive public input on the proposed FY 2023 Tax Rates.**

**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, personal property tax, and refuse fees for FY 2023:**

**REAL ESTATE: \$1.27 PER \$100.00 ASSESSED VALUATION**

**PERSONAL PROPERTY: \$5.85 PER \$100.00 ASSESSED VALUATION**

**REFUSE FEE: \$21.00 PER MONTH**

This Ordinance will be effective thirty days after adoption.

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows:

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**NB #1: POLICE CHIEF HARTMAN WILL READ A PROCLAMATION FOR ANNUAL POLICE WEEK:**

Councilman Cooper read the following Proclamation as Mayor Fitzgerald presented the Proclamation to Chief Hartman, Assistant Chief Waylon Miller, and Lt. David Clements:

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS,** *the well-being of all citizens of Buena Vista is preserved and enhanced as*

a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of the members of the Buena Vista Police and Sheriff's Department; and

**WHEREAS,** the men and women of the Buena Vista Police and Sheriff's Department, at great risk to their personal safety, presently serve their fellow citizens as guardians of peace; and

**WHEREAS,** 178 peace officers were killed in 2021, including sixty-two from Gunfire, twenty-four from

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Automobile Crashes and twenty-two from Heart Attacks. With an additional from COVID-19 related illnesses. In addition, 21 K-9's died in the line of duty protecting their communities. Since the first known line-of-duty death in 1791, over 22,611 U.S. law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice: and their names are memorialized on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C.; and

**WHEREAS,** each year, during the month of May, a week is set aside and designated as Police Week; and

**WHEREAS,** the purpose of such designation is to honor the memory and hold tribute to the many courageous and heroic police officers who have laid down their lives in the protection of our homes and our persons, and to those officers who continue to faithfully protect and serve the citizens of Buena Vista; and

**WHEREAS,** it is important to promote public respect and appreciation for the protection and rescue efforts in which our police officers are performing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor of the City of Buena Vista, Virginia, do hereby proclaim May 15 through May 21, 2022, as

**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**

and urge all citizens to honor police officers and sheriff deputies for their outstanding service to the City of Buena Vista, and to honor the memory of all police officers who have given their lives in the performance of their official duties.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be duly affixed the Seal of the City of Buena Vista, Virginia, this 19<sup>th</sup> day May 2022.

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William Fitzgerald, Mayor  
City of Buena Vista, Virginia

ATTEST:

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Dawn Wheeler  
Buena Vista Clerk of City Council

Chief Hartman thanked Council for the 5% pay increase for the employees. He also stated that citizens appreciate what the police officers do and our crime rate in Buena Vista is still low.

**NB #2: MR. COREY HENSON TO PRESENT THE ELECTRICAL UPGRADE QUOTE FOR GMP:**

Mr. Henson started the report by saying the proposed new work at the upper campground has a time limit now. Square D is saying they must receive a signed contract by May 25<sup>th</sup>, or the price will go up 15% which will be approximately \$30,000.00. Everything to be done, including all electrical, all bathhouses, and fifty-two sites that will all have 50-, 30-, and 20-AMP service. They will use all copper, all in conduit for a price of \$248,700. After May 25<sup>th</sup>, the price will go to \$278,544.00.

Councilman Webb wanted to know if that includes water lines.

Mr. Henson said it does not include water lines. He said the sewer is ok. He is working on that with contractors which will be an additional cost to us. The City will be doing some of the digging which will be a cost savings to us. He advised that Jellystone is adding ninety-two additional sites and a new swimming pool at a cost of \$2,300,000.00.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know if we can use ARCA funds for this project.

Mr. Tyree said that before Council approves the contract he would like to go into Executive Session before they vote.

Councilman Henson opined that everyone realizes the work needs to be done.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said we do not have any choice but to get the work done.

Mr. Henson said it will be 12 to 14 weeks to get the material needed for the job. We have to pay half for a deposit.

Councilman Cooper wanted to know how long this repair will last.

Mr. Henson said 50 years.

Councilman Cooper made motion to approve the contract, seconded by Councilman Webb, carried by Council.

Mayor Fitzgerald read the following:

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ACCORDING TO SECTION 2.2-3711 (A) (3) OF THE 1950 CODE OF VIRGINIA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE POSSIBLE LEASE OF A PORTION OF CITY OWNED REAL PROPERTY**

**WHERE DISCUSSION IN AN OPEN MEETING WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE BARFAINING POSITION OR NEGOTIATING STRATEGY OF THE CITY:**

**CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE MEETING**

MOTION: Councilman Henson

DATE: May 19, 2022

SECOND: Vice-Mayor Hickman

**WHEREAS**, the Buena Vista City Council has convened an executive meeting 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn M. Wheeler

Clerk of Council

**REGULAR SESSION:** Council Member Henson moved to return to regular session, seconded by Council Member Cooper, carried by Council.

Mayor Fitzgerald

Mr. Webb

Mr. Staton

Mr. Henson

Vice-Mayor Hickman

Mr. Cooper

Mr. Coffey



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

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Dawn M. Wheeler  
Clerk of Council

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William H. Fitzgerald  
Mayor