

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
PUBLIC HEARING AND
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 5, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Fitzgerald
Councilman Henson Councilman Cooper
Councilman Webb Councilman Staton
Councilman Coffey

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Mayor Hickman

ADG #1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Councilman Cooper delivered the opening prayer.

ADG #2: PUBLIC HEARINGS

**BUENA VISTA CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARINGS**

MAY 5, 2022

Mayor Fitzgerald read the following:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1

**PROPOSED 2022/2023 MUNICIPAL
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 Budget.

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

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2022-23</u>
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>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	\$15,075,160

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

City Council	\$	39,548
City Manager		155,114
City Attorney		70,000
Information Technology		136,000
Finance Director		286,225
Independent Auditor		64,800
Commissioner of the Revenue		226,885
Reassessment		33,000
Board of Equalization		3,000
City Treasurer		300,274
Insurance		70,700
Electoral Board		160,238
Circuit Court		6,234
General District Court		7,020
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court		33,610
Clerk of the Circuit Court		257,871
City Sheriff		429,234
Commonwealth's Attorney		264,392
Criminal Justice Services		80,170
Police Department		1,866,494
Fire Department		163,500

Rescue Squad	110,903
Probation Officer	3,000
Magistrate	425
Medical Examiner	150
Economic Development	131,090
Planning	229,138
Administration & Engineering	248,788
Street Maintenance	1,157,407
Streetlights	73,000
Refuse Collection Department	402,722
Refuse Disposal	300,000
Maintenance of Building & Grounds	457,823
Maintenance of Greenhill Cemetery	44,778
General Tax Relief	80,000
Retiree Medical Plan	45,000
Central Dispatch	406,964
School Fund	2,293,803
Regional Jail	736,108
Transfers to Other Funds	346,687
Debt Service	222,230
Social Services	2,300,000
Non-Profit Agencies	<u>447,696</u>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$14,692,021

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

Water Administration	104,009
Water Maintenance	373,218
Water Production	290,755
Debt Service	<u>604,089</u>
WATER FUND EXPENDITURES	\$1,372,071

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

Sewer Administration	103,009
Sewer Maintenance	341,520
Wastewater Treatment Plant	<u>752,497</u>
SEWER FUND EXPENDITURES	\$1,197,026

PARKS AND RECREATION REVENUE

PROPOSED

2022-23

Charge for Services & Misc. Revenue	333,075
Transfer From General Fund	<u>323,506</u>
TOTAL PARK FUND REVENUE	\$ 656,581

PARKS AND RECREATION EXPENDITURES

Administration	\$	202,432
Recreation Department		162,190
Activities Department		16,300
Maintenance of Parks and Campgrounds		217,984
Swimming Pool		<u>57,675</u>
TOTAL PARK FUND EXPENDITURES	\$	656,581

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION REVENUE

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED	
	<u>2022-23</u>	
City Funds	\$	23,181
Interest Recovery		<u>19,583</u>

TOTAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCT REVENUE \$ 42,764

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES

Middle School Loan 42,764

TOTAL SCHOOL CONSTRCT EXPEND \$ 42,764

SENIOR CENTER FUND REVENUE

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED	
	<u>2022-23</u>	
BV/Lex/Rock County	\$	<u>8,500</u>
TOTAL SENIOR CENTER REVENUE \$		8,500

SENIOR CENTER FUND EXPENDITURES

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

SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND REVENUE

PROPOSED

ITEM

2022-23

Nutrition Revenues	\$	<u>656,247</u>
TOTAL SCHOOL NUTRITION REVENUE	\$	656,247

SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND EXPENDITURES

Nutrition Expenses	\$	<u>656,247</u>
TOTAL SCHOOL NUTRITION EXPEND	\$	656,247

City Manager Jason Tyree said the proposed budget they have in front of them has gone through the Budget and Finance Committee. We still have real estate at \$1.27 per \$100.00 assessed valuation; personal property at \$5.85 per \$100.00 assessed valuation; refuse fee at \$21.00 per month. There is no proposed tax increase. This is what they have produced through the Budget and Finance Committee. The total general fund expenditures are \$14,692,021.00. There are no proposed increases with water or sewer. He said there is one thing he would like to make note of is that even though we have not increased the personal property tax rate, the increased assessed values in vehicles have increased (that is something that we do not control, it is controlled by the economy). They decided through the Budget and Finance Committee meetings instead of using 100% of the assessed value that we have traditional used in the past, we would use 85% which is basically the rough trade in value. It takes it from about a 40% increase to about an 18% increase. This is a little bit more of half of what we could have charged under State code under our current guidelines. We did go with the lowest valuation that we could go with to try to save as much money we could

for our citizens. Mr. Tyree said that some places used the 100%. This is a way for localities to get more revenue without increasing the taxes. He opined that our citizens are already so heavily taxed we wanted to do everything we could to take it in the other direction.

Ms. Lisa Clark, 1825 Pine Avenue, Buena Vista said that under Revision #3 of the agenda, the general fund revenue does not match the general fund expenditures.

Mr. Tyree said the additional amount of revenue will go into the general fund revenues. This is about \$383,000.00 going to our fund balance to help build the fund balance.

Ms. Clark wanted to know if there was a place in the budget from last year that the City took close to a \$400,000.00 lose.

Mr. Tyree said he did not think so. The only thing we lost really bad on last year was the water fund which was made up by the sewer fund.

Ms. Traci Montgomery, 11 West 29th Street, Buena Vista was the next to approach Council. She is the Plant Manager at the WWTP. She requested an amendment to her budget for the WWTP. Ms. Montgomery said they are in desperate need of another full-time employee. They have an employee who is going out for surgery this month. They do not know how long he is going to be gone. They are already stretched very thin with only two more full time staff. She does not have a dollar amount because she is not sure if they would be required to hire someone with a wastewater license or someone without a wastewater license.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined it would be hard to amend her budget without an amount.

Mr. Tyree said they can get with Charles and Ms. Montgomery and try to figure out an amount. He said there is going to be a Budget Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 10. They can mention it again at the meeting.

Ms. Montgomery said she wanted to get the request in prior to the budget being approved.

Mr. Tyree wanted to know how many employees were at the WWTP.

Ms. Montgomery said they have three full time employees plus herself. They also have one part-time employee.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if Ms. Montgomery needed an experienced operator.

Ms. Montgomery said her concern is she is close to retirement, not that she will be retiring. In order for the plant to operate you have to have a Class 2 or 1 wastewater operator. She

would like to hire someone who has a least a Class 3 wastewater license so she would have plenty of time to train them to do her job if she chooses to retire.

Councilman Coffey asked he if she is looking to hire someone to do her job.

Ms. Montgomery said she is looking for an operator, but she would like to have someone she can train to do her job. Jamie Moore is also at retirement age. She has someone in mind that already has a Class 3 license. This person is going to sit to get a Class 2 license as soon as they are eligible. If that person was to come to Buena Vista, then she would encourage them to sit for the Class 2 license if they did not get it before they come to work for us. With the aging of the employees, they need to start looking at long term plans. She said that Charlie cannot do the DMR's. She said he can sign off on DMR's, but it has to be someone qualified to put the information in the computer and no one knows how to do that except her.

Mr. Tyree said that he and Charles will get together and then contact her.

Councilman Henson wanted to know if the permit requires the WWTP to have so many employees.

Ms. Montgomery said there is a requirement but because they cut the hours back when they went from 16 hours to 10 hours. She does not believe it was ever amended because they changed the number of employees. She has been told by the DEQ Inspector that he would recommend having at least one if not two more full time staff. Right now, it is just a recommendation not a requirement. With the upgrade she is not sure what DEQ might require as far as staff is concerned.

Ms. Lisa Clark approached Council again concerning the Social Services expenditures. She said their expenditures are \$2,300,000.00. She wanted to know what their exact expenditure was for last year.

Mr. Tyree said it was right at \$2,300,000.00.

Ms. Clark wanted to know if that was the total we were billed or if that is the amount that was paid after we deduct the 75% that the City gets back from Social Services.

Mr. Tyree said the \$2,300,000.00 is our total payment.

Ms. Clark opined that we are expecting to receive about 75% in revenues from Social Services.

Mr. Tyree said that is correct.

Dr. Tony Francis, Superintendent of the City of Buena Vista Public Schools was the next to speak. He thanked Council for their past financial support. He asked that Council please support their request for \$2,800,000.00 to improve the starting teachers' pay. If Council cannot get the \$2,800,000.00, please give them as close to that as they can. He said that currently the Buena Vista City Public Schools is last in the State of Virginia in starting teacher pay being \$31,900.00. He pulled up some data and found that in 2009 the starting teacher pay was \$31,333.00. The starting pay for this year was \$31,928.00. In 2008 we were 126 out of 132 school districts. He opined since 2008 we have started to slip while other school divisions have moved their funding up. He said that State funding has improved and will continue to do so. Five percent for employees really will not do anything to improve the starting salary of basically \$32,000.00. Rockbridge County, Lexington City and all the surrounding areas have a salary for starting teachers a little over \$40,000.00. This money would allow them to move their starting teacher's salary to approximately \$39,000.00. We will still be behind Rockbridge and Lexington by a few thousand dollars but with the starting salary increase it would at least put us in the ballgame. The basic funding in 2017/2018 was \$2,580,000.00. Local funding last year was \$2,430,000.00 and the proposed budget this year is \$2,290,000.00. The trend is going down. He said we all know that \$2,580,000.00 went a lot further in 2017 than it will today. We will need to purchase two new school buses this year at a cost of \$126,000.00. He opined that everything has gone up. With inflation, even if we went back to \$2,580,000.00 it still would not go as far as today's dollar as it did in 2017/2018. One of the things they did not do was put in any new positions in the budget this year. They are trying to focus on the teachers that work hard every day. This year they struggled to fill positions. They had three positions: one went to Rockbridge; one went to Amherst; one went to Appomattox. He has teachers in the building right now that have been offered new positions 5 or 6 miles down the road making \$8,000.00 more per year. They love Buena Vista and want to stay here but some time they have to make a decision. He asked Council to invest in the schools. The teaching staff is going to educate the future leaders in Buena Vista. They need those teachers in there working with the students. He opined they have to raise the starting teachers pay so we can stay competitive.

Mr. Ronnie Slough of the Buena Vista Rescue Squad was next to approach Council. He introduced the only full-time employee the squad has, Mr. Dakota Dillard. Mr. Slough said as everyone knows they have been talking about letting the County come in to put paid

people in the squad building. Council did not favor that, and the squad took a vote in the last business meeting, and they agree with Council. They do not want to work with the County. However, they still need a lot of money. They need money to serve the citizens. He talked to some of the Council members a couple of months ago about the squad not receiving a raise since 2010. The funding has been \$110,000.00 for the last 12 years. They have to have more funds to serve our citizens. He thought they were going to get \$50,000.00 from the CARES money the City received. They have to have people at the building whether they are needed or not. They had two people at \$19.00 per hour and they did not answer any calls for 72 hours. That cost the squad \$2,736.00 for 2 days.

Mr. Dillard asked Council to give the squad \$50,000.00 so they can offer services to the City. Councilman Henson said he had several questions that he would address with Mr. Dillard after the meeting.

Ms. Lisa Kerr, 2524 Holly Avenue, Buena Vista was the next to address Council. Ms. Kerr advised that she is the Vice-Mayor of the School Board. She said she is not here tonight only as a School Board member but also, she has two adult children that had an amazing education in Buena Vista. Ms. Kerr said she is in attendance to ask Council to consider the School Boards request in the budget. It is the only way they can do the pay increases. As Dr. Francis brought to your attention, out of 132 public schools Buena Vista is number 132 in the pay scale. She opined that all the teachers pour their heart and soul into their students every day. Ms. Kerr said we cannot continue to ask the staff for the love, security, encouragement, and the best education given to the children for what they are paid. The pay band only raises them up from the bottom, not at the top by any means. They would still be in the low percentile. There is no one in this room that is not deserving of funding. Ms. Kerr said the School Board tries to be good stewards of the school funds. Without our children and good teachers that are going to pour into them each year, we are not going to have a future. She opined that being at the bottom of the pay scale in the State of Virginia, we are a third hand status as far as the rainy-day fund goes. If we could please consider, for all of Buena Vista, because this is not just for our school system right now, this is our children who are the future of Buena Vista. She concluded with asking for Council to please consider the funding the school is requesting.

Ms. Katie Scott, 623 Brook Avenue, Buena Vista was the next to speak. She is in her first year as the Student Success Coach at Kling Elementary. She has coached girls' basketball

for 4 years. She is currently working on her master's in teaching. Prior to working inside the school system, she was the Director of Parks and Recreation for a couple of years. She said she really loves Buena Vista and would like to stay here to work and live. She is concerned how the pay scale and budget will affect the future. She opined there will be a lot of people leaving soon and we are very unlikely to recruit new teachers. The school will not be able to fill positions. Currently our school's website has more than thirteen job openings and we will not be able to continue to fill those positions. We have not filled them this past year and she opined we will not be able to fill them this coming year. When she completes her degree next spring, she will be put on the current salary scale of zero experience at \$30,407.00 per year. A teacher with 1 year experience has a salary of \$31,900.00. She would then get a \$4,000.00 master's degree supplement. Before taxes she would make about \$34,407.00 per year. That will be with 2 degrees: one from JMU and the other from Liberty. Just over 10 minutes away in Rockbridge County, she would be starting at \$40,123.00 with a \$2,500.00 master's degree supplement. She said that she is aware that money is always tight. She is asking that Council prioritize the schools and the kids. She opined the decision of Council to approve or disapprove the budget is a direct factor of the future of our schools, our City, and the lives of the children that live in Buena Vista. If Council chooses not to approve the budget the impact will be felt negatively and very much immediately. This is not 5 years down the road. The impact will be felt in August. Several members of Council have told her directly that people like her, the young people, are the future of this City. She said she genuinely wants to be here but without proper funding people like her will not be able to afford to stay in Buena Vista. She opined this is not only in the school system. She said she is begging Council to consider the budget presented by Dr. Francis and the school system.

The next speaker was Ms. Sherry Wheeler, 2136 Birch Avenue, Buena Vista. She advised that a teacher with the Buena Vista City Public Schools that is just starting makes \$31,927.53 per year. At the top of the scale a teacher would make \$52,307.38 per year. The school division itself helps our teachers as much as they can. The salary scale has to be fixed. A new teacher that comes into our schools will bring home around \$2,100.00 per month after taxes and insurance. On average the teachers work between 40 to 50 hours per week. She said the schools have received extra funds and are being used to help support our learning loss. Our students are doing very well on the SOL's. A lot of their extra money was spent to keep the schools clean during COVID. We were one of very few schools that stayed open during COVID. This year they had a definite need for four positions. She helps recruit for the

school division. We cannot compete with the other school districts with our present salary scale. In the school 2023-2024 we will lose fourteen exceptional employees if they decide to retire. If we cannot get four teachers on what we are paying now there is no way, we will get fourteen in the next few years. Ms. Wheeler said she is begging and pleading for Council to put the money in the school division. Please help them ensure that our kids have a bright future. She urged Council to help pay the teachers so they can stay here and make an honest living.

Mr. Steve Vassar, 516 Sycamore Avenue, Buena Vista addressed Council next. Three years ago, he and his wife's lives changed when they adopted two boys. He said he used to joke around that he went to Tyler Kerr's house after school and practice and sometimes spent the night there and he is going to help educate his children. He opined we are very lucky for the teachers we do have. He also did not realize the pay scale for our teachers. He said that several people that he went to school with said they wanted to come back and teach in Buena Vista. He now understands the reason they came back is because they want to help our community. He opined there is no way possible that teachers can make a living on \$30,000.00 per year especially when you can go ten miles and make \$40,000.00. One of the reasons they brought their kids from Fairfield to Buena Vista to attend school was Mrs. Gilbert, the principal at the middle school and Mrs. Angie Patterson. Both were excellent leaders. He said that Enderly has bent over backwards to help his middle child. He asked where else could you go and have teachers that are willing to go the extra mile for the kids. He feels that a raise for the teachers would not only be helpful but essential. Almost every teacher that is here tonight has property in Buena Vista. Property is expensive and he feels that shows how committed they are to the community. He opined that Council should give these teachers a little bit more.

Mr. Mac Felts, 255 Vista Links Drive, Buena Vista spoke next. Mr. Felts said he is a 1957 graduate of Parry McCluer High School. For years we have taken exceptional pride in the quality of our school system. He said he is here to plead with Council to protect that pride by putting forth the funds to allow us to keep up the quality of the educators that we need to keep the most valuable asset that this community has which are the students. If we lose our students, we will lose our community. He opined if our school goes down, the town goes down. In 2017 Council authorized \$2,583,000.00 for the schools. As a result of some extra funding from the State over \$2,700,000.00 was spent by the school that year. Last year Council cut \$150,000.00 from the schools. This year Council is proposing to cut

\$140,000.00. That is not sustainable. He said that \$71,000.00 is being allocated to the City Manager to properly to take care of low paid employees and people who deserve extra because of their work. From the rescue funding you are putting aside \$105,000.00 of bonuses for employees that are very deserving. What about the deserving teachers? What about the deserving administration? Keep in mind that these people are being asked to do overload because when people are absent, someone has to pick that up. When someone leaves, somebody has to pick that up. A principal this year was charged handling an English class because the English teacher left unexpectedly. In addition to the fact that we are the lowest paid educational jurisdiction in the State. Mr. Felts said you all saw the results yesterday of a feasibility study that they required the school board to do. It pointed out that there are conditions in two of these schools that are basically unexceptional. Our teachers go in everyday with a great attitude and promote the education to our students. He opined these people deserve to be rewarded for what they do. He said to not let this school jurisdiction stay on the bottom any longer.

Councilman Cooper wanted to know if Mr. Tyree had a copy of the feasibility study.

Mr. Tyree said it was in the newspaper and is on their website.

Councilman Cooper expressed his desire to see it on the school's website.

Ms. Cordelia Derr, 1353 Birch Avenue, Buena Vista spoke next concerning the proposed budget as far as raises for City employees. She said she absolutely does not want to take anything away from the school. She opined they are right when they say the children are our future. Six percent of the City's employees with the proposed 2% raise will still not be making minimum wage when it goes up on January 1, 2023. Even if it was raised to a 5% raise, 6% of the employees will still not be making minimum wage. She opined that is a big deal. Everybody is talking about being competitive, so she looked up on the City of Lexington's website today. They are hiring for a sanitation truck driver at a starting pay of \$11.82 today. Some of our people are only making \$11.00 because the minimum wage is \$11.00. She feels we need to look at being competitive for our trash crew specifically. Right now, there is not much incentive to keep those guys here and not going to the County or Lexington.

Ms. Traci Montgomery spoke again beginning with thanking Ms. Derr for her comments and thoughts on the 2% raise for City employees. She agrees with Ms. Derr. Our health insurance is going up 7%; we are getting a 2% raise; that will still put us in the negative. She is actually going to see less on her paycheck. She said she is ok with seeing a little less on her

paycheck. She is here speaking on behalf of her employees that work for her. They are not college educated but they have a job they have to report to the State. They will have to eventually get a license from the State to perform their duties. The WWTP is in horrible condition and safety issues are a concern at the moment. They just had a roofer fall through the roof while trying to replace it. She has guys that are going up on the roofs to change filters not knowing if they will fall through the roof. They are working with old equipment. They are working in dangerous situations working with chlorine gas that can kill you in a matter of seconds. In her opinion it is a thankless job because nobody sees what happens at the WWTP. People do not think about what her employees have to do to make the water safe and stay in compliance with the State. If we were not in compliance with the State, the fines the City would have to pay would be tremendous. We are in the health field as well as the water side which she cannot speak on behalf of. She would like for it to be considered that since our insurance is going up 7%, she would like to at least to know that we could get a raise that was sustainable enough, so our employees will not see less on their paychecks.

Mr. Tom Roberts, 546 East 19th Street, Buena Vista spoke next. In the proposed budget that was initially presented to the Planning Committee there was a proposal of 5% cost of living raise for City employees. The budget that is before you now has a 2% cost of living adjustment with an additional amount for the City Manager to use at his discretion to provide additional raises as he sees fit. He wants to make sure it is clear that the cost-of-living adjustments are solely to keep raises in line with inflation. It is not about whether you are doing the job or not. If cost of living increases does not keep up with inflation, then you are getting paid less regardless of what numbers are on your paycheck. If a loaf of bread costs a \$1.00 more than it did last year but your pay increases only \$0.50 then you are not just making \$0.50 more, you are making less. Two percent increases on an annual basis are fine for the last 30 years because inflation hovered between 1 and 3% going back to 1980. In 2021 inflation was four ½ % and so far, this year it is 8%. We knew it was not a clear path forward to curbing inflation. No one has a crystal ball to see what inflation is going to do. We are talking about a four ½% inflation rate last year and 8% this year. As we all know bread does cost more, the groceries and gas cost more and other expenses cost more. He is asking Council to give City employees a 5% cost of living increase. He said he does not want special treatment; he does not want a merit-based raise; he wants to keep the buying power to the same thing he made last year. In order to do that it needs to be more than a 2% raise. A vote for a 2% cost of living increase is a vote to lower his salary. In the last 6 months or so

there have been more jobs available than job seekers. Other employers are raising their wages to attract job seekers. Modine was paying over \$17.00 per hour and now their starting pay is \$21.00 per hour. They understand that workforce is essential. If you do not have a quality workforce, you cannot function as an organization. You can offer great benefits, a great work environment, but if the pay is not enough for people to live on they will eventually choose other places to work. For those reasons, he is asking for the 5% cost of living raise.

Ms. Ashley Loughhead, 481 Fir Avenue, Buena Vista approached Council next. She is a student success teacher at Enderly Heights Elementary School. She is also a graduate of our school system, and she is honored to come back after she graduated from college. Our school system with academics and athletics has always been a central point in our community. After many conversations in college, she realizes we are quite unique in that. The community support and love our students receive is phenomenal. She opined this is something that we should be proud of. The City needs to support and vote yes on the proposed budget with the installation of the pay bands. She and many others that she has spoken to fear we will no longer have a Buena Vista based school system. As of 1:00 p.m. today there are thirteen plus jobs on the school's website. Many are waiting to see what they will be paid next year. We may have even more jobs posted. They have been working understaffed for the entire school year. She personally has had twelve different schedules this year having to be moved around every time someone leaves. She has been a math teacher, a PE teacher, a writing teacher, and she does not have a teaching degree. They have to do what they have to do for their students. This educator shortage is a problem across the nation, so we are not unique in that aspect. We are sorely equipped to compete with the other school systems in our area and for the limited number of educators available. Our teachers are asked to give more and more every year but are given no incentive to do so. Classrooms are self-funded with teacher spending a large portion of their pay checks to enrich the experiences for their children and to make sure they have the necessary educational resources they need to get their students to where they need to be. Teachers give up hours of their time with friends and families to complete jobs they are unable to do in the classroom because of giving students the attention they need to succeed or to attend meetings that can only be scheduled during that time. Many of them take on extra positions at the school because without us stepping up and taking the positions opportunities would no longer be available for their students that they desperately need. They also take on those extra roles because their salaries are no longer livable even in Buena Vista. The average

cost of living in Virginia is \$42,757.00. Most of the schools' employees are well below that. As the cost of living rises it is becoming harder and harder to work for BVCPS especially when they can drive 10 minutes and make \$10,000.00 starting pay. She opined they are at an extremely pivotal point. Many of the essential long-time employees are at retirement age and we do not have anyone to replace them. If you analyze our positions the majority of the employees that stay past 2 or 3 years are BV natives who came back to stay to make a difference. We simply do not enough of born and bred people in our profession, so you need to draw in outside candidates. If you do manage to get some of those people, they typically leave in 2 to 3 years because we cannot compete with schools paying thousands more than us. If we do not raise our pay to a competitive level, we will simply not have enough employees to serve our students or we will get lesser quality candidates who have been passed over by higher paying school districts. None of the employees are in this profession to get rich. They come to work everyday because they love the children, and they want to see them grow and reach every one of their goals. We want to remind them that someone cares about them and is happy to see them. We want to see their smile and make sure they get something to eat, their hair gets brushed, they have the basic life essentials they might not get at home. They want to give them all the extra love that they can give because that might be the difference in the way their life turns out. She opined that teaching is a work of love. Teaching is a profession that allows you to sit there and do your jobs and them to do their jobs. All they ask is their pay reflects what they are attempting to do for the kids.

Mr. Mike Gibson, 2514 Spruce Avenue, Buena Vista was the next person to approach Council. He stated in order for our City to flourish we need to grow and expand our population and our tax base. When people are looking for a place to move, they look for two main things: jobs and the school system. We do have a lot of jobs available, but it is vital that we invest in our school system to attract those young families with kids to help our community grow.

Mr. Bob Vassar, Robindale Court, Buena Vista spoke concerning AB&B zoning changes. He said he was at the last Council meeting he was told someone would get back with him by Monday and he has not heard anything.

Mr. Tyree said he had called and did not get an answer. He explained he has been off work and asked Tom Roberts if he had checked on the zoning for Mr. Vassar.

Mr. Roberts said he has not had time to do so.

Mr. Vassar opined that teachers do not make no where near the money they should make. Our City workers and police officers do not get the praise they should get. It is a shame that our teachers and our City workers cannot make more money than what they do. He agreed we are losing so many of our young people. At one time Buena Vista was a great place to come to and retire. It was a great place to raise a family. The young people had all kinds of opportunities to do well in Buena Vista. He said he is not blaming this Council but the decisions that Councils in the past have made has put this City in a heck of a bind. We have lost tax revenue. The WWTP needed to be redone years ago. Buena Vista was a great place to live at one time and it is a shame that it has gone down like it has. Mr. Vassar said he feels sorry for the teachers and City workers because of bad decisions in the past. We need to look ten years ahead. Do not look anymore at the past or present but look at what we will look like ten years from now.

Ms. Carrington Balsler, 284 Hillside Drive, Buena Vista spoke next. She is one of the first-year teachers and she is barely clearing \$2,000.00 per month. She stated that she grew up here and graduated from Parry McCluer High School and is teaching at the same elementary school that she attended. She was very nervous about coming back to Buena Vista to teach because of the pay. She put her application in and immediately Sherry Wheeler asked her to please come and teach in Buena Vista. She was ready to come back to Buena Vista to teach the children the same way she was taught. She works with teachers who help her and it is awesome. She said the children that she teaches now will not be able to come back to see her because she will not be able to afford to live in Buena Vista if their pay does not increase. She feels what the schools are asking for is reasonable. Being even last on the pay scale she would not trade Buena Vista for the world. Ms. Balsler stated this has been the best experience she could have ever asked for. The SOL scores this year are above and beyond what they thought they would ever be. They have teachers putting in hour, after hour, after hour, after school. She is one of those teachers and she also coaches volleyball as well. She is continuously working late at school to help her students become successful. She is pleading like everybody else is to get the budget to where they need it to be to keep teachers and to get new teachers.

Ms. Kara Campese Fix, 283 Orchard Street, Buena Vista was the next person to speak. She said this is a very emotional conversation because she feels she is speaking to people who do not care about education. She is a second-year teacher in the first grade at Kling Elementary School. She also runs the after-school program at Enderly Heights Elementary

School. She is not originally from here and has lived here for only 4 years but obviously she is very passionate about this. Over the past 4 years she has seen the people of this town come together during the toughest times. People in Buena Vista take care of one another like she has never seen before. She has also watched this town crumble as businesses shut down, restaurants close and buildings stay empty with falling ceilings. One thing that makes Buena Vista unique is our schools. The teachers in Buena Vista are unique because no matter how much they get paid they come to work every day and do the best they can do. They love the children of Buena Vista and give the best possible education that they can. She opined that none of the people in this room would be where they are if it were not for the many teachers that have taught them throughout their lives. Enough is enough. A few miles down the road we can do the exact same job and make \$10,000.00 more a year. They can drive an hour and make \$20,000.00 more per year. They are one of the lowest paid public schools in the State of Virginia. She has to work two jobs to pay her bills because the salaries in Buena Vista are so low. She has never thought that she would be a rich teacher, but she did think that she would at least make a living wage to where she can, take care of herself and her family. She furiously loves the nineteen children that walk into her classroom every day. She buys snacks, wash the arms of the children who she knows who have not taken baths in a few days. She says she says love you to kids she does not know because she knows they will not hear it at home. All of these things she would never trade for anything, but they can no longer live getting paid pennies compared to other teachers in our area. She hopes that Council understands that by cutting their budget you will lose teachers. You will lose programs such as the best after school program because we can no longer afford to give students the extra attention that they need. The people who will shape the future of this town will leave and there will be no one left. The students will suffer because there will be no money for supplies. The buildings they teach in are falling apart and are full of dangerous materials, but Council continues to cut this budget. Cutting the budget shows that you do not care about the future of your town or the children in the City or the teachers that bring so much heart into the school each and every year. If the budget is not approved as the School Board and Superintendent presented it teachers will leave and you will need to consolidate with the County. This is an extremely dangerous decision, and she highly urges Council to pass the budget. They have worked tirelessly no matter what has been thrown at them and these students deserve to get the best education that is possible. A vote against this budget as it was approved by the School Board is a vote against the future of Buena Vista and a vote against this budget is a vote against the children.

Ms. Lisa Clark, 1825 Pine Avenue, Buena Vista spoke next. She said she has spoken with some of Council individually about where they are with the school system right now. She said she had talked to Councilman Staton, and he seemed very supportive of the budget that Dr. Francis presented. She is asking when the vote comes that someone find the courage to say they need to do the right thing. She opined the money is there Council just has to find it. She would drive through 75,000 potholes to get to work everyday if it meant that she gets to see these teachers. She opined they are more important. They are the future of our City. She was on Council for 10 years and she loved every minute of it. She stated that Council knows how emotional she gets when they talk about the schools especially when they talk about cutting them. The last time they were cut Councilman Webb was on the School Board when the budget was cut really big. The damage that was done when that happened has not been recovered. Councilman Webb was there, and he knows what happened and that is what will happen now if the budget is not approved as presented. Some of the things she has heard is by not funding education as requested by the School Board and Dr. Francis, the message we are sending is very huge by saying that their education and future is not important. Many other things such as potholes are valued more than our students. We need to open our minds and need to understand the state of the schools and where we are. She has had 3 weeks this entire school year that she has been fully staffed. She interviewed three people last year for one position. All three got an offer but no one accepted because of the salary. They went other places that are really close to us. The message that we are sending to our students and their families is that we do not want them to have the best future. Council does not want BVCPS to thrive. She knows that is not true. She knows that Council cares because she has worked with them. Please dig deep and find that courage to make the right decision. We have 850 citizens right now in the school system that are not old enough to vote and your decision will impact their future.

Councilman Henson said he is not against the teachers getting more money for teaching our future, our youth. The students deserve the best. He is not against education because he got his through BVCPS system. He graduated from Parry McCluer High School, and he will always support and remember the dedication of the teachers and the staff who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. But what gives him real heartburn is when the Superintendent is making over twice as much as the City Manager who is responsible for the whole City. Furthermore, the principals at all four schools are getting paid more than the City Manager at or near the figure amount. There is something wrong with this picture. Where

is the money that comes down from the Federal government and the State going to? Can the administrations salaries be frozen for a few years and the money goes back to the teachers? This is something to think about as they prepare the 2023 budget for the City of Buena Vista.

Mayor Fitzgerald closed Public Hearing #1.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #2

PROPOSED 2022/2023 TAX RATES

BUDGET THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA

Mayor Fitzgerald opened Public Hearing #2.

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, 2nd 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

City Manager Tyree explained that Public Hearing #2 is on \$1.27 per \$100.00 assessed valuation for Real Estate tax: \$5.85 per \$100.00 assessed valuation for Personal Property;\$21.00 per month for refuse.

Mayor Fitzgerald closed Public Hearing #2.

ADG #3:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Councilman Coffey made motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Staton, carried by Council.

ADG #4: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 21, 2022:

Councilman Coffey made motion to approve the above-mentioned minutes, seconded by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

ADG #5: 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.

No one spoke.

ADG #6: REPORTS:

1.) Mayor:

None.

2.) City Manager:

Mr. Tyree advised that we submitted our application for the grant funding to DEQ on Tuesday or Wednesday. We should hear back from them in the next couple of months.

3.) City Attorney:

Mr. Kearney announced that hopefully by tomorrow by 10:00 a.m. Mr. Tyree will be a property owner in Buena Vista.

4.) Council Committee/Representative:

Councilman Henson started his report by saying it has been a busy time around the City. Parks and Recreation activity, ballfields, playground, electric, camping, and events. Public Works have been working on a Birch Avenue drainage project and several water leaks throughout the City. They have been getting the cemetery ready for Mothers' Day.

Mr. Tyree said he would like to thank Councilman Henson and Councilman Coffey for collecting some donations for the new playground we would like to build at Glen Maury Park.

Councilman Coffey said that Councilman Henson was on a water leak Sunday. He saw on Facebook that people thought it was a sewer leak, but it was a water leak. He thanked Public Works for fixing the problem on Monday morning. They had a 72 hour stay between with Ms. Utility. They must have come up on Monday morning and they did a great job. They did a great job working at the park this past week for the Guy Carawan event. He said he was raised here and went to school here. He is a Fighting Blue through and through. The school is not our only entity that Council has to deal with. Council has the entire City that they have to take care of. Council has only cut the school one time since he has been on Council. That was a \$150,000.00 cut and we gave \$100,000.00 back to the schools. He does not want to see anybody leave here. He does not want to see the teachers leave and see the students come back. He opined it is a shame that we do not have the finances. We are really fortunate to be where we are today. In a sideways kind of way, the pandemic benefited Buena Vista with the CARES and ARP money. If it were not for those funds, we would be in deep trouble right now. We are trying to build the fund balance to do what we can with everything we have. We are trying to do what we can. He said he is not saying that Council will not approve the school's budget. He is saying we have to do what we have to do for the entire City not just for the schools. When they go to the Finance Committee meeting, he will keep his eyes and ears wide open. If we can see to do that when it comes back to Council, he will vote for it. If Council cannot do it, he is sorry. We have to do what we have to do. There will be another Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday which is open to the public. He said he appreciates everything the teachers have done, and he understands the financial situation of the schools.

**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 2/31/23. THIS IS THE 4TH 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

Will carry over to the next scheduled Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

OB #1: ~~SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CITY POLICY ON ABANDONMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY:~~

OB #2: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CITY'S TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATED REAL ESTATE:

Mr. Roberts said he wanted to point out there is a staff report showing some changes from the last meeting. There is some additional clarifying language about the process. That will be in the last couple of paragraphs of the draft text. It says how you make an application and when you make an application. Initially we proposed a five-year term for the exemption where you got 100% of the exemption the first year, 80%, 60%, 40%, 20% until after 5 years you are paying the full tax. The concern was that it does not give enough incentive for people to work on their buildings that they were not already going to do. He suggests we set a 7-year term of exemptions: the first 3 years 100%; 4 years 80%; 5 years 60%; 6 years 40%; 7 years 20%. That will give you a return on your investment of 5.46% assuming a 6% inflation rate. If you change the inflation rate it really does not change the return on the investment that much.

Councilman Henson said he did not get what Mr. Roberts had said but he knows where he is coming from.

Councilman Coffey said he knows what Mr. Roberts was talking about but he had said 5 or 5 ½%. He thought Mr. Roberts had said two ½% to 5% it really would not be worth it, and you should put your money somewhere else.

Councilman Cooper said he is the one that said that about it not being worth it and putting your money elsewhere.

Councilman Coffey opined if you do not get any more than 5% return when you can get a 6,7,8, or 9% return he would put his money somewhere else. He wanted to know if we are trying to get people to do this or they wanting the people who have already planned to do renovations to do this. He wanted to know how we would educate the public or are they just going to do this and not let the public know about it.

Mr. Roberts said he will let the residents know once Council decides on what they are going to do.

Councilman Cooper thanked Mr. Roberts for clarifying the process. His question is do we want this and what are we trying to accomplish. He said if we are trying to accomplish incentivizing property owners, residential and commercial, to make sufficient improvements to their property then the question is if this is enough incentive. Or are we just trying to say thank you to those who do then is this too much of a thank you.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if we were going to use this to encourage people or to target people that have already made up their mind to make improvements to their property.

Councilman Cooper said he thinks that is up to Council as to how we design the tax ticket.

Councilman Henson said he looks at it as an encouragement for property owners to make improvements to keep their property up more so than having to go out and tear down buildings. This needs to be made attractive to citizens.

Councilman Cooper asked if we are trying to encourage citizens to make improvements to their properties.

Mayor Fitzgerald gave Mr. Roberts instructions to bring this back to Council with several options at the next meeting.

Ms. Mary Lee Huffman, 225 Magnolia Avenue, Buena Vista spoke next. She is also the Treasurer for the City of Buena Vista. She said that over the years there has been some really big assets that has come out of this. For example, Dr. Dryden's office and the National Bank. This makes people want to do improvements to their property and the City incentive to our community.

Councilman Cooper said just to make sure her recommendation is this is structured to encourage people to do things they might not otherwise do.

Ms. Huffman said the thought process is they want to make the property so they can be proud of it

Mr. Kearney said that Roanoke City did it for 10 years at 100%. That helped revitalize the downtown area. That is a much bigger area and much more depressed area. It depends on how many years you want to do this and what kind of return you are looking for.

Ms. Kristina Ramsey said we do have citizens interested in doing improvements to their homes or commercial buildings, but they are concerned about the increase in taxes. She advised that they have the money to make the improvements but do not want the increase in taxes. We can let them know if they do the renovations, they will not have to worry about increasing taxes for a few years. This will also help them market the property better.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know about the increase in prices of materials to build. He wanted to know if they can get the building materials.

Councilman Cooper said he thinks this will make the process easier. The project can be smaller and still have the threshold. The only other suggestion he has is currently what has been proposed is the tax incentive would remain with the property. He wanted to know if there was a way to say the tax incentive stays with the owner in case the property sales.

Mr. Kearney said it has to stay with the property which is a selling point for developers. If you are looking for a higher return rate, the tax credit will be 100% for more years.

Councilman Cooper said his question is if a developer buys the property and makes the improvements, will the incentive stay with the property or with the original owner.

Mr. Roberts said that whatever return rate that Council wants, he can work the terms and exemption percentage.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if there is a minimum amount that has to be spent to be involved with the program.

Mr. Roberts said the improvement must increase the assessed value by 25%.

Councilman Henson said he knows of three businesses that are waiting for materials in order to open up. If they have to wait for a year to get the materials, will that affect the incentive.

Mr. Roberts said if you buy a building and start working on it the assessed value of the building does not increase until the renovations have been completed. The owner would not really need to get the benefit until the renovations have been completed.

Mayor Fitzgerald asked Council to email Mr. Roberts with their ideas so he can get an idea of what they want.

This item will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

City Code Text Amendment
Ordinance Text
City Code Sections 16.82 through 135, Rehabilitated Real Estate
Tax Exemption

AN ORDINANCE to adopt a revision to Chapter 16, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Buena Vista (Section 16.82 through 16.135), regarding an exemption for certain rehabilitated real estate.

WHEREAS, the purpose of this tax exemption program is to incentivize private capital investment in existing buildings in the City of Buena Vista, and the parameters of this program need to be updated to suit current market conditions,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA, that after a duly called public hearing, in accordance with the general welfare of the citizens of Buena Vista, Chapter 16, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Buena Vista is hereby revised as follows in the attached Exhibit A.

This ordinance shall be effective 30 days following adoption by City Council.

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

DATE:

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Mr. Coffey could not attend tonight but did send in the following report that Mr. Tyree read:

RARO Update 5/5/22

1. Baseball and Softball are in full swing. We currently have 363 participants, of which, 113 are from BV.
 - a. Babe Ruth Baseball for ages 13-15 and 16-18 will begin soon. Still accepting registration forms for both groups.
2. Currently, we are using fields at Laurel Park and Secrist Field at Glen Maury Park.
 - a. Would like to work with BV Schools in using Schneider Field at PMMS
 - b. In an effort to best utilize the facilities and minimize confusion, RARO has placed schedules on the backstops of these three fields.
3. Fall Sports Programs (Football, Cheerleading, Soccer)
 - a. Registration begins on Monday, May 9th
 - b. Season begins in August
4. New programs being offered: RARO is excited about offering more adult programs!
 - a. Pickleball
 - i. Just finished a 4-week introductory class
 - ii. Open Court play just started on Wednesdays at Maury River Middle School
 1. Limited spots available - register at the RARO office
 - b. Adult Coed Softball
 - i. Currently registering teams
 - ii. Plan to start by May 16th
 - iii. Games will be played in 1 of 4 locations
 1. Glasgow
 2. Secrist Field
 3. Rivermont in Fairfield
 4. Brewbaker in Lexington
 - c. Outdoor Grass Volleyball

- i. Registration begins Monday
 - one. Divisions
 - a. Middle School thru High School
 - b. Adult Doubles (2on2) and Quads (4on4 Coed)

5. Summer Camps, Clinics, Programs will be released soon.

There is a lot happening with RARO and we appreciate everyone's support. If there are any questions about programs or how to register, please contact the RARO Office.

NB #2: POLICE CHIEF HARTMAN WILL READ A PROCLAMATION FOR ANNUAL POLICE WEEK:

NB #3: MR. COREY HENSON TO PRESENT THE ELECTRICAL UPGRADE QUOTE FOR GMP:

Mr. Henson has not received the quote as of yet. Will carry this over to the next Council meeting.

NB #4: RESOLUTION FOR PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ABANDONMENT POLICY:

- i) Mr. Roberts advised there were a couple of changes made from the first reading. The first line had said "BE IT ORDAINED" and should have said "**BE IT RESOLVED.**" The substantial change was about the \$0.75 per square foot. The last time he talked to Council they wanted to know what other options we could offer. He suggested using the real estate appraisal. After further review he does not think that is the best option. **The revised text says The purchase price shall be \$0.75 per square foot of land to be abandoned, unless modified by Council at least 14 days prior to the public hearing on the proposed abandonment.** That means if you have a special case where there is some justifiable reason that the land would be priced at less than \$0.75 per square foot the applicant can come to Council the month before the public hearing asking for a lower price for whatever reason. Council then could vote to give the lower cost or not.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know why we cannot leave it as it is since we just changed it.

Mr. Tyree said some assessed alleyways are actually assessed lower than the \$0.75 per square foot. That is the only reason we thought of including an option that someone could

come to Council and ask for a lower price, depending on where the property is. If it is not something we want and we can put additional revenue back on our books, you all should at least have an option to consider lowering the cost because if Council does not approve the lower cost, the person will never buy it and it will not be put back on the tax book.

Mr. Roberts read the following Resolution as read with exceptions as corrected:

RESOLUTION R22-08

Public Right of Way Abandonment Policy

Final 4/28/2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that from the date hereon as a condition to the vacation or abandonment of a public right-of-way or easement the following will apply:

1.) Except as provided herein the abutting land owner(s) must purchase the right-of-way or easement in accordance with the terms hereof:

a) The purchase price shall be \$0.75 per square foot of land to be abandoned, unless modified by Council at least 14 days prior to the public hearing on the proposed abandonment

b) The price of the City's property must be paid within thirty (30) days of the enactment of an Ordinance of vacation or abandonment and prior to any abandonment or vacation being effective, unless otherwise authorized by resolution of City Council

c) The above methods of price determination for an abandoned or vacated right-of-way shall not apply to any federal, state, or local governmental body.

2.) The City may retain an easement for utilities.

3.) The applicant shall pre-pay a fee set from time to time by City Council.

- 4.) The applicant will submit either a new survey or a copy of the City Plat indicating the exact roadway to be closed, the number of square feet within same and the value of the property in accordance with the formula outlined above.
- 5.) If the area of land abandoned or vacated does not create a lot conforming to the applicable zoning, the applicant shall, by deed, vacate such lot lines or parcel boundaries as necessary to combine the abandoned or vacated area with existing lot or lots.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that from the date hereon the following factors will be considered in an abandonment or vacation of public rights-of-way or easements:

- a) The agreement or disagreement of the adjoining landowner(s)
- b) The intended use of the property, which the applicant will outline in writing.
- c) The potential future use of the right-of-way by City and the potential impact its closing may have on the general welfare of the citizens.
- d) Such additional factors as may be appropriate to the partition request.

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

DATE:

Councilman Henson made motion to approve the above Resolution with the changes, seconded by Councilman Staton, carried by Council.

NB #5: FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PROPOSED 2022/2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA:

Councilman Cooper read the following:

ORDINANCE
PROPOSED 2022/2023 MUNICIPAL
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 Budget.

A complete copy of the budget is available for review in the City Manager’s office, City Hall, 2nd Floor, 2039 Sycamore Avenue. The City Council is considering adopting the following real estate tax rate, personal property, and refuse fee 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

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2022-23</u>
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>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	\$15,075,160

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

City Council	\$	39,548
City Manager		155,114
City Attorney		70,000
Information Technology		136,000
Finance Director		286,225
Independent Auditor		64,800
Commissioner of the Revenue		226,885
Reassessment		33,000
Board of Equalization		3,000
City Treasurer		300,274
Insurance		70,700
Electoral Board		160,238
Circuit Court		6,234

General District Court	7,020
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court	33,610
Clerk of the Circuit Court	257,871
City Sheriff	429,234
Commonwealth's Attorney	264,392
Criminal Justice Services	80,170
Police Department	1,866,494
Fire Department	163,500
Rescue Squad	110,903
Probation Officer	3,000
Magistrate	425
Medical Examiner	150
Economic Development	131,090
Planning	229,138
Administration & Engineering	248,788
Street Maintenance	1,157,407
Streetlights	73,000
Refuse Collection Department	402,722
Refuse Disposal	300,000
Maintenance of Building & Grounds	457,823
Maintenance of Greenhill Cemetery	44,778
General Tax Relief	80,000
Retiree Medical Plan	45,000
Central Dispatch	406,964
School Fund	2,293,803
Regional Jail	736,108

Transfers to Other Funds	346,687
Debt Service	222,230
Social Services	2,300,000
Non-Profit Agencies	<u>447,696</u>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$14,692,021

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

Water Administration	104,009
Water Maintenance	373,218
Water Production	290,755
Debt Service	<u>604,089</u>
WATER FUND EXPENDITURES	\$1,372,071

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

Sewer Administration	103,009
Sewer Maintenance	341,520
Wastewater Treatment Plant	<u>752,497</u>
SEWER FUND EXPENDITURES	\$1,197,026

PARKS AND RECREATION REVENUE

	<u>PROPOSED</u>
	<u>2022-23</u>
Charge for Services & Misc. Revenue	333,075
Transfer From General Fund	<u>323,506</u>
TOTAL PARK FUND REVENUE	\$ 656,581

PARKS AND RECREATION EXPENDITURES

Administration	\$	202,432
Recreation Department		162,190
Activities Department		16,300
Maintenance of Parks and Campgrounds		217,984
Swimming Pool		<u>57,675</u>
TOTAL PARK FUND EXPENDITURES	\$	656,581

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION REVENUE

	PROPOSED	
<u>ITEM</u>		<u>2022-23</u>
City Funds	\$	23,181
Interest Recovery		<u>19,583</u>

TOTAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCT REVENUE \$ 42,764

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES

Middle School Loan	<u>42,764</u>
TOTAL SCHOOL CONSTRCT EXPEND \$	42,764

SENIOR CENTER FUND REVENUE

	PROPOSED	
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	
BV/Lex/Rock County	\$	<u>8,500</u>
TOTAL SENIOR CENTER REVENUE \$		8,500

SENIOR CENTER FUND EXPENDITURES

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

SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND REVENUE

	PROPOSED	
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	
Nutrition Revenues		<u>\$ 656,247</u>
TOTAL SCHOOL NUTRITION REVENUE		\$ 656,247

SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND EXPENDITURES

Nutrition Expenses		<u>\$ 656,247</u>
TOTAL SCHOOL NUTRITION EXPEND		\$ 656,247

This Ordinance will become effective thirty days after adoption.

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

DATE:

**NB #6 FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PROPOSED
2022/2023 TAX RATES BUDGET THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA:**

Ms. Wheeler read the following:

ORDINANCE
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, 2nd 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

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

DATE:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mayor Fitzgerald closed the meeting.

Dawn M. Wheeler
Clerk of Council

William H. Fitzgerald
Mayor