

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADG #1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Councilman Cooper delivered the opening prayer.

ADG #2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

ADG #3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 4, 2022, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

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

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

Mr. Jamie Goodin stated that he wanted to give Council some Main Street BV updates. He opined that the Battle of the Bands was pretty successful for the first year. They estimated there were between 350 and 400 people that attended. There were people from seven different states in attendance. He said the music was great from the classic rock to the blue grass. They made a profit of approximately \$2,000.00, which is a 33% profit margin. The Business Solutions Group talked about how they are going to market the BV businesses for 2022. Everyone agrees to do coop advertising together. They will do digital

advertising. They will have digital marketing in late September. The Promotion Committee, which is the Marketing Committee, is going great. They have a great group of young, engaged citizens. They have open flags in the color blue for BV that will be delivered soon. They have an ongoing SVU scavenger hunt with SVU donating prizes. They are trying to get the students in the habit of coming downtown.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if the seniors at PMHS was involved in this project.

Mr. Goodin said they have different projects in the works for the high school seniors. They already know where everything is. They have ordered Main Street labels for water bottles to pass out at football games. They have talked about putting planters and benches downtown. The big historic photos are at the printer now. In the general organization, the core group of board members are awesome. They are looking to recruit five new board members. The four criteria for this board are vision, positivity, diligence, and availability. If someone fails any of those four, they are welcomed to join another group.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know if Mr. Goodin could put something out so people can know about the boards.

Mr. Goodin said they will put something on social media.

Vice-Mayor Hickman opined it would be good to put something out there so the local people can know what the criteria is and who is needed to service on the board.

Mr. Goodin said they have plenty of SVU people and they are striving to include more people from BV.

ADG #5: REPORTS:

1.) Mayor:

None.

2.) City Manager:

Mr. Tyree opened his report by stating that he had sent pictures to Council a couple of week ago of the public works shed at the pool. This shed is covering pool equipment. They have since put vinyl siding on the shed. He should have pictures sent out to Council by tomorrow. Public Works has done a great job and saved the City a ton of money versus a contractor. The contractors quote for the shed was \$12,000.00 or \$13,000.00. All together we have spent around \$1,200.00 to build the shed. He thanked Public Works for the work they did on the shed. There was a nice letter to the editor in the News Gazette thanking the Council and staff for the work done in BV. Two leaf vacuums should be here next week. Public Works tried one of them out as a demo a few months ago and they loved the piece of machinery. It will take less people to man the new vacuum. You only need three people to run this machine versus needing 4 to 5 people to run the old one.

3.)City Attorney:

None.

4.)Council Committee/Representative:

Councilman Henson started his report by saying he felt that we were misled about the parking lot at Vista Links.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said she did not feel like they did their due diligence where the parking lot was concerned, and she should have asked questions. She said it was done very quick.

Mr. Kearney agreed it was done very quick. He advised it is just the parking lot and not acreage and they will use it for a parking lot. He delivered a check to Jason today in the amount of \$72,000.00. He opined we had to get it done.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said going forward we need to make sure we have all of the information in front of them before they make a decision about selling property. She opined Council should have known what they were doing.

Councilman Henson said he attended the dedication of the Prasnicki/Ross field at Rockbridge County High School on Friday night. Mr. Prasnicki's parents grew up in Buena Vista. Both the Public Works/Public Safety meeting and the Parks/Recreation meeting went well. We are in the process of planning the wintertime activities at GMP including the electricity, the pool, and the playground. The Guns and Roses softball game will be played on October 1, beginning at 6:30 at GMP.

Vice-Mayor Hickman stated that Council had talked about accountability of taking care of new equipment at Public Works. She heard that the new dump truck has been damaged. She wanted to know if we have something in place to make sure employees are held accountable for the use of equipment and have had the proper training to take care of the equipment.

Councilman Coffey said he found out at the Public Works/Public Safety meeting about the new dump truck. A bolt was run through, and it was loose. It caused the bed to come down crooked.

Mr. Tyree said it is at the shop now and is under warranty. The truck was actually recalled because they were not supposed to use bolts. It was supposed to be welded. When the trucks are delivered to the dealer, the dealer puts the bed on them. When they install the beds, they are supposed to weld them not install them with bolts. Corey is holding employees accountable for equipment.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said she has been told by a Public Works employee that things are missing from Public Works.

Mr. Tyree said there is sign-up sheet now. We have had some rakes and shovels missing but not weed eaters or anything like that. The sheet is to sign out equipment and to sign it back in.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if there is any such sheet for vehicles, trucks, or tractors. He wanted to know if they have a maintenance sheet to use when they check the equipment out in the morning and check it back in when they return it to the shop. He opined a checkout sheet actually protects the person using the equipment.

Mr. Tyree advised the mechanic at Public Works will start work on Wednesday. The employees will have to check the keys out from the mechanic and the equipment will be checked again when it is turned back in.

Councilman Webb wanted to know if Mr. Tyree had any information about the backhoe situation.

Mr. Tyree said we have three backhoes. We purchased one new one and the old one is still being used. Corey said the thought behind it is with some of the situations is they do not want to tear the new one up. In some of the holes they have to dig they want to continue to use the old one and keep the new one as long as we possibly can.

Councilman Webb wanted to know if we got a trade-in.

Mr. Tyree said we did not because we would not have gotten anything for it.

Councilman Webb said it was his understanding that we were going to trade one in to help cut the cost of a new one.

Councilman Coffey said we paid either \$35,000.00 or \$45,000.00 for a new track hoe.

Councilman Webb said there was a situation a couple of weeks ago at Penny Park. Our maintenance department mowed the grass, and they destroyed it and left it. He happened to go by and saw a lady up there cleaning grass off of the bench so she could sit down. He took pictures of the park and notified Jason and Corey and they came up to the park. Every Council member has looked at it. We just gave our employees a 5% increase and the quality of work that came out of this particular instance did not make him happy. He does not know if the employee was written up, suspended, or fired but he can say from the looks of the pictures there is no one around here that is pleased with the work. He opined we have got to start holding our workers accountable for what they are doing here. We are paying a decent salary now and we need to make sure we get decent work from our employees. If they do not want to work here, they can move on. They tear up equipment, do a job halfway and walk off and leave it. They even mowed the grass short and blew out in the street which is totally against the law; it is in the code of

the City that grass is not to be blown out in the street. He said he is disappointed with the situation, and he is not satisfied as to what has happened at this point. The FOP carnival went fairly well. We had competition with a lot of other events going on in the area. Councilman Webb thanked Mr. Kearney for the work he has done on the golf course. He has been fooling with the golf course, as well as Council, for many years. That mess is behind us and hopefully we can move forward.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know how the situation at Penny Park was taken care of.

Mr. Tyree said it was handled personnel wise and he does not agree with what Councilman Webb has said about the 5% raise. Mr. Tyree said it seems to him that Councilman Webb put all of City employees in the same bucket as one person who did not do a good job.

Councilman Webb said he was trying to say that we need to hold everyone accountable no matter what their job is. He said they are earning taxpayers' money and they need to be held accountable for their actions.

Mr. Tyree said we do hold employees accountable. He said he sent Council statistics on what we have done in the last year compared to what has been done in the last 4 to 5 years. He said he thinks that stands for itself. We have held more people accountable this last year than we have in the last 4 or 5 years. Our goal is to retain good employees. Everybody is human and everybody makes mistakes. His fear is if we go around firing everybody, nobody is going to want to come to work for us and we are not going to retain anybody. The goal is if you make a mistake, we get you back on track. If you continue to make mistakes, we will terminate your employment. We have done that a number of times in the past year. We try to get the employees on the right track, and if they do not stay on the right track, we will terminate them. The work done at Penny Park was shoddy and not acceptable.

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

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

**WE HAVE AN OPENING ON THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS. THIS
TERM WILL EXPIRE ON 12/31/23. THIS IS THE 10TH TIME THIS HAS
APPEARED ON THE AGENDA. THE TERM WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY:**

**ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE AUGUST 24, 2022: POSTED ON
SOCIAL MEDIA: NO APPLICANTS**

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

WE HAVE AN OPENING ON THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS. THIS TERM WILL EXPIRE ON 12/31/25. THIS IS THE 1ST TIME THIS HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA. THE TERM WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY: ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE AUGUST 24, 2022: POSTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA: NO APPLICANTS

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

ROCKBRIDGE AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD: MS. CHERYL HICKMAN HAS RESIGNED. HER TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 31, 2023. THIS IS THE 5TH TIME THIS HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA:

ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE AUGUST 24, 2022: POSTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA: MICHAEL J. GIBBONS

Vice-Mayor Hickman made motion to appoint Mr. Gibbons to the RACSB, seconded by Councilman Webb, carried by Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1: BUENA VISTA RESCUE SQUAD WILL PRESENT THEIR TEN (10) YEAR PLAN AND CONSIDERATION OF THE BVRS LETTER FROM THE CAPTAIN FOR THEIR REMAINING FUNDS WHICH COUNCIL HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED:

Mr. Dakota Dillard started the presentation by advising that they met with Mr. Tyree several months ago concerning building a ten-year plan to outline the financial position for the next ten years for the agency. Mr. Tyree has seen the final disposition on the ten-year plan. Moving forward the agency is looking at the numbers growing due to inflation, changes to medical equipment, and rising fuel costs. The agency is planning to make some futuristic changes. They will be hiring additional personnel. They have hired an additional full-time provider. Right now, the City is able to provide the squad \$110,000.00 per year. They are now having to pay for additional calls, additional manpower, and fuel. They will also need to replace an ambulance within the next year. In one year, there is a \$25,000.00 price increase for an ambulance. They would like to request that they be able to move forward with the remainder of the money from last year. They are trying to retain employees. Council brought up earlier the retention of their employees and they are trying to retain their employees also.

Many jurisdictions around us are passing us on pay raises. We were competitive and are trying to remain so. We are starting to get in a financial bind of making the points meet. They are also looking at futuristic increases of recovery, different projects they have been working on and ways to try to amend some of their spending. They are also looking at future support from the City to help continue to provide the services to the citizens.

Mayor Fitzgerald said this does not really look like a ten-year plan. He opined it looks more like a projection on pay raises and how much they will cost. There is even a projection about how much the minimum raise will be. It is not really laid out with more detail of things the agency can do.

Mr. Dillard said that unfortunately there are certain changes that are getting ready to come from the office of EMS and the DEA on drug box issues that they are having to work on. They are several things they have open they are working on that are open ended that are dependent on other entities which is also affecting some of their operational standards. Unfortunately, they did the ten-year projection or the extended plan due to the fact that mainly what they are looking at problematic on their side is the financial side of things.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if they had a request for anything tonight.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said that based on the letter from the Captain, they are requesting the \$25,000.00 that was left over from last year. It says in the letter what the \$25,000.00 will be used for. She has not had an opportunity to look at the ten-year plan. She said she thinks they talked about using the ARPA funds to give the funds to the rescue squad since we have already given funds to the fire department.

Mr. Tyree said that Council approved last year \$50,000.00 for the rescue squad with \$25,000.00 to be given immediately and the other \$25,000.00 was to be given with Council approving the plan for how the funds would be used.

Mr. Dillard advised that part of their request is the \$25,000.00 from last year and they are also asking about additional for future use. As of right now they are looking at within the first ten years their payroll being somewhere in a half million dollars. In the next three to five years, they are looking at the minimum wage being \$15.00 per hour.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know what they are paying per hour now.

Mr. Dillard said depending on the ability to provide services between \$15.00 and \$19.00 per hour. They have four employees that are being paid \$15.00 per hour. They have two full time employees and roughly thirteen part time. It is roughly four personnel per day: two from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and two from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. They are working 120 shifts per month.

Vice-Mayor Hickman opined that Council did not have any problem with giving the squad \$25,000.00 since they have already given \$56,000.00 to the fire department. They have pushed to go to the County, and they are trying to do it on their own. She said we need to give them what they need in order for them to continue to serve the community. She said

she needs to see something from the squad stating where they will be in ten years. She said that Council needs to see a copy of their audit.

Mr. Tyree said that the squad would be asking for the additional \$50,000 in the next budget cycle and that will give us time to work the kinks out.

Mayor Fitzgerald said since the last time the squad met with Council asking for more funds, there have been a lot of missed calls. He said he would like to see a plan on how the squad will address missed calls.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know if Mayor Fitzgerald had read the paper that referenced the missed calls. She said if Mayor Fitzgerald had read the paper, he would see that the missed calls are not cut and dry. She said you would have to look at the call loges of Glasgow, Lexington, and Rockbridge County to understand why some of the calls were missed.

Mayor Fitzgerald said he wanted to know if the squad has plans to cover the missed calls.

Mr. Dillard said one of the problems they have faced recently and looking at the paper also is staffing problems. Every jurisdiction is having staffing problems right now. Lynchburg is paying their guys \$60,000.00 and Roanoke is not far behind them. Augusta County is also paying excellent salaries. Unfortunately, if he is going to pay \$15.00 per hour and you can go to Lynchburg and make much more, you are going to go to Lynchburg. It has made it very hard for them, but they are working on these problems. Mr. Dillard said he can get the figures on paper for Council.

Councilman Coffey said he would like to know if there is a way to keep up with calls missed due to the squad being out on another call.

Ronnie Slough said they have four employees that work for Rockbridge County full time and work for Buena Vista part time. Buena Vista has two new full-time employees now. They would like to start giving a stipend to the volunteers of \$50.00 per twelve-hour shift plus \$25.00 for meals.

Councilman Coffey said the eighty-five percent of the missed calls are due to the squad being out on other calls.

Mr. Slough said they would like to try the program and hope it works. Most localities are paying big time wages.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if they could work with two units instead of four units.

Mr. Slough said they have a 2017 model and a 2020 model. If one breaks down, that will leave them with only one. He said they could get by. They also have a 1999 four-wheel drive with 32,000 miles on it. It does have a few rust spots on it. They also have a 2014 Chevrolet with 62,000 miles which will be the next one they get rid of. A new truck will cost over \$300,000.00.

Councilman Coffey made motion to give \$25,000.00 to the squad that had been promised, seconded by Vice-Mayor Hickman, carried by Council. He wanted to know if Mr. Slough had given a copy of their audit to Council.

Mr. Tyree said he does have a copy of their latest audit. He will send it out to Council. He said they have restricted funds just like we do for certain items.

Councilman Henson wanted to know the expected life of an ambulance.

Mr. Dillard said seven to ten years. He said there are certain restrictions but there are also grandfather clauses. Right now, there is no direct year listed. For the last ten to twelve years the restrictions have gone up. Units older than ten to twelve years are not meeting the criteria. He said by the time you refurbish a unit, it sometimes cost more than a new truck.

Mr. Slough said they will be back next year requesting funds in the budget.

Mr. Tyree said he would get with Mr. Slough tomorrow about the check and will also get with them about some of the comments concerning the ten-year plan.

Councilman Cooper requested that the squad bring their requests back to Council as early as possible.

Mr. Dillard said they would have their request back to Council within ninety days.

NB #2: DISCUSSION AND ALLOCATION OF ARPA FUNDS AND ALLOCATION OF REFUND FROM ACA:

Mr. Tyree started the discussion by advising we did receive a check today from ACA in the amount of \$72,000.00. This is a refund due to the settlement of the golf course with ACA. They have talked about using this money at the Budget/Finance meetings for playground equipment at GMP. These funds will be put back in our fund balance and can be allocated and could be used for anything that the City wanted. From the ARPA funds they discussed two items: a roof for public works at a cost of \$40,000.00 and an asphalt saw to cut the asphalt to fill the potholes at a cost of \$25,000.00. We have allocated \$65,000.00 from the ARPA funds. There is only one manufacturer for the asphalt saw because it is a bobcat attachment. There was multiply quotes on the roof. This one is not necessarily the cheapest, but it did include the gutters and downspouts replacement as well. The roof is for the building that the offices are in and also the mechanics work area.

Ms. Traci Montgomery, WWTP Director, asked to address Council about some of the ARPA funding. Their roof leaks as well and they literally had a river that they had to bring the shop vac in get the water out of the building. She said she knows it has been looked into, but they have not heard anything back as of yet.

Mr. Tyree advised we have not received the quote back on the roof for the WWTP. He asked Ms. Montgomery if she knew who quoted the roof.

Ms. Montgomery said the people that did their other roofing were going to quote but she was told they needed to wait. They knew it would cost quite a bit more by waiting.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know what the cost of the original quote was.

Ms. Montgomery said the roof on the control building will be in the low \$20,000.00's. If they have to come back to do it at the same time, they are doing the other roofing it would probably be \$30,000.00 to \$35,000.00.

Mayor Fitzgerald said the company that the school uses is really reliable and reasonable. He opined it would benefit us to go ahead now and put the roof on.

Mr. Tyree said he will get a quote for the roof at the WWTP. He is also waiting on a quote for the roof at City hall.

Councilman Webb stated that he would like to see the ACA money used for repairing the stuff we have damaged now instead of sitting it aside for playground equipment. We need to take care of the stuff we have now. He said he knows that everybody has heard that we let things get run down before we do anything to fix it. He opined we can buy new playground equipment but right now we are doing fund raisers now for playground equipment. We have a small playground at Penny Park that is usable. If we can get the ACA money to use for fixing the roof at public works and then maybe work on the WWTP needs. He opined that is stuff we need to have fixed right now. If we do not get it fixed now it will cost us more and more in the future.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said the ARPA funds will be used for infrastructure so what difference does it make what funds we use, money is money. We are going to do both so what difference does it make where we take the funds.

Mayor Fitzgerald said it was his understanding that the playground equipment would be paid for from fund raising.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said the playground equipment will be partially paid for with fund raising. She said the Finance Committee and Parks/Recreation agreed to spend \$72,000.00 on the playground equipment plus the \$30,000.00 grant no matter how much money is raised through fund raising. Any money that is raised will be put back in the general fund.

Councilman Henson asked Mr. Tyree if we could allocate \$72,000.00 for the playground equipment so we can get started on it and have it ready for next Spring. He suggested that any money that is raised for playground equipment be put back for repairs at the park. For fifty years nothing has been done at the park.

Mayor Fitzgerald said to get a quote for the three roofs and Council will figure out a way to take care of them.

Mr. Tyree said we have four quotes for the roof on City Hall. He said that three of the contractors did not show up.

Mayor Fitzgerald suggested that Mr. Tyree talk to Dr. Francis about the contractor that the schools use. He said when he was on the School Board, they had to get bids for a new roof. He had a hard time getting the contractor to put in a quote and when they did, they were

much higher than the contractor from Lynchburg. He said we may have to get a quote from someone different for the roof on the barn. He opined if we do not put a new roof on the barn now, we are going to have major problems. He suggested they look at all the roofs and the playground equipment together at one time.

Councilman Webb reminded Council that the courtroom still has to be flipped around.

Councilman Coffey said we will use the \$72,000.00 from ACA and the \$30,000.00 grant to do these repairs and the playground equipment.

Councilman Henson said we will have to do an RFP. He said that Kristina is going to have a meeting soon with her people concerning the location of the playground and the kind of playground equipment we want.

Councilman Webb wanted to know if we have received the box to fix the lower campground.

Mr. Tyree advised they are still working with the electrician and the engineer on the design. There was some talk about adding some addition sites. We are working with the engineer concerning what would be required to add those additional sites. The contractor will break it down two ways: the same as we have it now and then with the additional sites.

Councilman Coffey said there are ten sites that will need to be moved at the softball field down toward the Paxton House.

Councilman Webb opined we should have already placed an order for some of the materials.

Councilman Coffey said he has been saying that for the last two months, but they will have to wait to see how much more material they will need.

Councilman Henson said that the engineer from Dominion Power needs to tell us what we need.

Councilman Webb said he is talking about the things we know we are going to need like the PVC piping before the price goes up further.

Mr. Tyree said that Corey has already purchased the materials for both projects. The plumbing at the upper campground is done.

Councilman Webb advised there is a waiting list for people to purchase these materials. He opined if we wait another three months to decide what we need to buy we are not going to get the material.

Councilman Coffey said if we wait until October or November to order the material, we will not be able to get the material.

Councilman Webb said we have been talking about getting the materials for the park for the past year.

Councilman Coffey opined if we wait too long to order the materials, we are going to be back in the camping season again. He said we have been telling people we are working on the

repairs and getting them done. He does not want to have to fight these people next spring if the work is not done.

After more discussion from Ms. Traci Montgomery of the WWTP, Mayor Fitzgerald directed Ms. Montgomery and Mr. Tyree to get together a proposal and present it to Council.

Councilman Cooper made motion to use the \$72,000.00 from ACA for playground equipment, \$40,000.00 for the roof at public works and \$25,000.00 for the asphalt saw from ARPA funds, seconded by Councilman Webb, carried by Council.

NB #3: UPDATE FROM MS. KRISTINA RAMSEY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, CONCERNING THE RERC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AND THE FAÇADE PROGRAM BIDS:

Ms. Kristina Ramsey gave Council the following update:

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Program:

In late 2021, we applied to participate in the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities program that is administered by multiple federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the USDA, the Forest Service, and several others. I am very pleased to share that we were selected to participate among twenty-five other communities in the United States. Only two communities in Virginia were selected, us and Buchanan.

The program provides planning assistance to small towns and rural communities to help them build their tourism and recreation economies while also conserving natural resources, ensuring that all members of the community can benefit from and access outdoor recreation, and directing reinvestment in Main Streets to improve human health and the environment.

The City applied specifically to help us maximize the impact of Glen Maury Park to better connect it too downtown and too other recreational assets in our community, such as the Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail.

We will be assigned a planning team who will talk to City staff and stakeholders, plan and execute a big public workshop, and develop strategies to inform us on how best to connect our assets and leverage outdoor recreation as an economic driver. Staff conversations and workshop planning will begin this year and the workshop will take place at the start of 2023. I want all of you to be involved in this program and provide insight to our planning team so be on the lookout for future communications.

Facade Improvement Program:

Next, I wanted to let you all know that we will FINALLY be advertising the invitation for bids for the CBDG Funded facade improvement program. This was significantly delayed from our original timeline, but we officially finalized all the necessary details both on the administrative side and property owner side. The invitation for bids will be

published and advertised beginning September 7th and we will have an optional pre-bid conference on September 20th for interested contractors. Bids will be accepted until 2 pm on September 30th. From there, we will select a contractor and hope to begin work in late October.

There are a total of ten properties participating, eight included in the bid to use the selected contractor and two doing their own work.

Main Street Buena Vista:

I added a third item to my list for update because there is more good news! I am very pleased to share that Main Street Buena Vista is officially a 501c3 non-profit, accomplishing one of the key goals of the pilot. The board has been very active and recently elected officers. For your reference

Jen Carpenter, President

Craig Lawhorne, Vice President

Lori Turner, Treasurer

Sam Watson, Secretary

Having an established board and becoming a 501c3 are required steps in progressing in official Main Street America tiers and becoming a Designated, or advancing, Main Street community similar to Harrisonburg, Lexington, and other communities with major programs. As an officially designated program there is access to further grant funding and federal assistance. Main Street Buena Vista now meets most of the eligibility criteria to apply for official designation. The goal moving forward is to continue growing the program to long term sustainability, gaining community and government support, and establish financial sustainability. In order to meet these goals, the board in active recruitment for members to serve on the four committees. If you all know of anyone who may be interested, please direct them to Jamie, one of the board members, or me.

As a reminder, those committees are:

Placemaking — this group started placing the blue planters you now see in downtown. They are also working on a plan for getting benches in downtown, as well as large art in the windows of vacant buildings in addition to other projects

Organization — this group was in charge of the 501c3 application and process. They are also the group in charge of grants so anyone who is interested in grant writing or organization admin would be a great fit.

Promotions — this committee has built strength quickly. They are in charge of social media, newsletters, and advertising for the program.

Business Solutions — this committee is responsible for building relationships with businesses and holding monthly meetings for businesses can get together. They are also working on opportunities to hold training workshops and provide helpful tips to businesses.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ACCORDING TO SECTION 2.2-3711 (A) (1) OF THE 1950 CODE OF VIRGINIA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSES OF DISCUSSING THE PERFORMANCE OF A CITY DEPARTMENT HEAD AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL:

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE MEETING

MOTION: Councilman Cooper

DATE: September 1, 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 Wheeler
Clerk of Council

REGULAR SESSION: Council Member Coffey 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.

Dawn Wheeler
Clerk of Council

William H. Fitzgerald
Mayor