

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING,  
CIRCUIT COURT CHAMBERS  
NOVEMBER 17, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilman Webb

**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 Councilman Staton, carried by Council.

**ADG #3:      APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 3, 2022, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Councilman Cooper made motion to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2022, regular Council meeting and the Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Coffey, 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. Andrew King from 12<sup>th</sup> and Pine addressed Council concerning his request to put a double wide on the land he owns on Pine Avenue. He now lives in his grandmother's old house that has no insulation. He owns seven lots between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets. He would like to put a double wide on two of them. Last year he priced a double wide at \$40,000.00 and a modular was \$150,000.00. He doesn't see why he would have to pay \$100,000.00 more for the same square footage house. He would like for Council to approve a Conditional Use Permit for a manufactured home for the R3 District. He needs to have a Conditional Use Permit to put a manufactured home on two of his lots. He has been to the Planning Commission three times requesting the Conditional Use Permit and has been turned down.

Councilman Coffey asked Mr. King if there are other doublewides in the area near his property.

Mr. King advised there are doublewides around his property. He said there are Conditional Use Permits within the City now for manufactured housing.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said she was at two of those meetings and he wasn't talked to very nicely. She said she understands that it will come before Council.

Councilman Henson wanted to know when.

Mr. Tyree said it will be a Public Hearing at the December 20<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting and will come before the Council meeting on January 5, 2023.

Mr. Jamie Goodin advised Council that the tree lighting service will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 6:30 and the parade will begin at 7:00.

## **ADG #5: REPORTS:**

### **1.) Mayor:**

None.

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

Mr. Tyree advised that the Sheriff's Office has hired Mr. Morgan Henderson as a School Resource Officer for Parry McCluer High School. He will be driving the old Dodge Charger. This year is paid 100 percent by a grant. The school has assured us they will not have any issues in matching the grant next year. Public Works found two additional water leaks. We still have quite a few throughout the City. We are saving money by finding these water leaks. It is not only saving water but also chemical and operating costs. Mr. Tyree said the offices for the City will be closed Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday next week for Thanksgiving.

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

None.

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

Councilman Henson started his report by thanking the park staff for putting new Christmas lights in the park. Christmas in the park will be held on December 4, 2022, beginning at 5:p.m.

## **ADG #6: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES: NONE.**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**NONE:**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **NB #1: DISCUSS AND APPROVE FUNDS FOR ELECTRICAL WORK AT THE LOWER CAMPGROUND AT GLEN MAURY PARK:**

Mr. Tyree started the discussion by saying the Finance/Budget Committee met and approved \$867,900.00 for the main campground with an additional \$201,300.00 for more camp sites. This will increase the site capacity by 18%. Ed is looking at several different fees which will be put in the packets with all the other information. They need Council's approval to get started the first week in January and will finish mid-March or the first part of April.

Mayor Fitzgerald said he would prefer having someone come in and layout a study of where the additional sites will go. He wanted to know if we had contacted anyone to do a study of where the sites will go.

Mr. Tyree said there has not been a study done.

Mayor Fitzgerald feels the \$867,900.00 is ok for the initial upgrade but would like a study done about the lay out of the additional camp sites.

Councilman Coffey said the electrician has already laid out the sites.

Mayor Fitzgerald said he is an electrician, but he does not know anything about how a campground should be laid out.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know why we could not keep it as it is.

Mayor Fitzgerald said it will expand out the camp sites. New camp sites will be added and before that is done, we should have someone that knows how to lay out the sites study the campground. He opined you do not want the camp sites laid out so that campers will have a hard time getting in and out of the campground. He said we need to put things in the right place now as it is being done.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if the electrician knows what he is doing.

Mr. Tyree said Dominion had an engineer come in and look at everything. The site will allow to put in an additional twenty-eight spaces, fourteen double pedestals for \$201,300.00.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if the sites will be on the lower end near the Paxton House.

Mr. Tyree said they will be on the right-hand side near the river.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know the cost to have the sites laid out.

Mr. Tyree said it would cost about \$50,000.00.

Mayor Fitzgerald said we should have it all laid out for what we want in the future.

Councilman Staton said they had talked about angling the parking spaces so larger campers could get in and out of the campground.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined again that we need a plan.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know how it will affect us on our ARP funds.

Mayor Fitzgerald stated they can approve the money now. We need to get somebody in to approve the lay out.

Councilman Henson wanted to know how much more money it will take if we delay the project. He opined if we do not do it now, it will not be done in fifty years.

Mayor Fitzgerald said we need to have \$200,000.00 to do a study plan.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if that figure was for the entire park.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined we should lay out the camping spots we now have and put lines in where they need to be. He said we could still go ahead and approve money.

Mr. Kearney said we need to find out what is available.

Mr. Tyree said if we approve the money now, the consultant should be done within sixty days.

Mayor Fitzgerald said again we need to have the plan laid out before we start.

Mr. Kearney said this is a very tight timeline. He will find out and advise Council.

Mr. Tyree said if we wait until January 1, 2023, there could be additional costs.

Councilman Cooper said he agrees with Councilman Staton. He said we may be able to look at it to determine how it should be laid out

Mayor Fitzgerald said we do not know how to lay out a campground. We need to approve \$867,900 now to get the project started.

Councilman Staton opined we should look at the lay out for the additional sites.

Councilman Coffey asked if it was going to be an additional twenty-eight sites.

Mayor Fitzgerald replied there will be an additional twenty-eight sites. We need to approve the \$867,900.00 now.

Councilman Henson made mention to approve the \$867,900.00 for the scheduled work, seconded by Vice-Mayor Hickman, carried by Council. He said we should hold back an additional \$201,300.00 within 60 days for the layout and then decide whether we want the additional work done.

Mr. Tyree said at the last Budget/Finance Committee meeting there was \$35,000.00 in the budget for next year.

Councilman Cooper advised the \$35,000.00 will be taken from the ARCA funds in the 2023 budget.

**NB #2: DISCUSS AND APPROVE FUNDS FOR MAIN STREET BUENA VISTA:**

Ms. Kristina Ramsey gave the following report:

First, I want to thank you all for making the decision last year to support a pilot program for Main Street and for considering further funding for the coming year. Main Street programs can truly be catalysts for revitalization in a community and I'd like to think that we are seeing this happen right before our eyes.

For reference, I want to share a fun piece of information with you that I learned during our tourism board meeting yesterday. The board received a presentation from our digital marketing company with preliminary visitor data for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this year. In this report, we saw that in the second quarter of 2022, we had over 219,000 visitors to the Rockbridge area... of these visitors, 22.8% came to downtown Buena Vista. This put downtown Buena Vista as the top point of interest for second quarter, coming ahead of Downtown Lexington by 0.4% and Natural Bridge State Park by 6.6%. This data point is a clear indicator that we are doing something right and I would like to think that Main Street BV has played a positive role in this with their work supporting existing events, hosting events, helping share information with businesses, and generally helping to promote Buena Vista.

We have seen a real energy shift this year and a sense of vibrancy being restored to downtown. Having this dedicated group of individuals with a distinct focus solely on improving and supporting the downtown district has been a real benefit to the City. It has afforded more time to be spent on building relationships with the business community, fostering peer to peer support, and promoting the community in a meaningful way. More importantly, it has created a network of community members that are driving revitalization and getting their friends, family and peers involved, slowly but surely connecting with more and more of the community and in turn connecting with so many from outside our community as well.

Because of Main Street BV's success so far, they will be submitting an application tomorrow to advance in tiers for the Virginia Main Street program. This is the next step before becoming a designated community, like Lexington, Harrisonburg, and many others. Advancing to this next tier will allow them to participate in an accelerator program that provides members with training and resources to further advance revitalization.

All said, and in the spirit of the season, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Jamie and Main Street BV for all of their hard work this year. More importantly, I want to thank all of you for everything you do for the City. The work that has been accomplished with Main Street and beyond is in large part to the funding you allocate and the trust you put in all of us. We all know it is not an easy job but your work for the City does not go unnoticed.

I hope that you all have seen the impact Main Street has made and I trust that whatever decision you make is the best one for our City. Thank you.

Councilman Cooper thanked Mr. Goodin for all the work he has done for the City during his tenure here.

Councilman Cooper made motion to approve \$35,000.00 for Main Street Buena Vista, seconded by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

**NB #3: RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE KIWI EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (KIWI) TO OPERATE AS A PRIVATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT AGENCY IN BUENA VISTA:**

Mr. Kearney started the discussion by saying that Council will not have a meeting in the month of December so we need to do something tonight, if we can, that will allow them to open their shop in Buena Vista. Our next Council meeting will be held on January 5, 2023. His concern with the draft Resolution is the administration section does not make any sense. It talks about when you apply for a license and talking with the gentlemen, they are saying that every time you leave a location you need to amend the application. They sent him an email from the local investigator for the compliance of this area and even though it makes no sense at all because they are already licensed with the VHC they are talking about you need a Resolution for the service area. They have been licensed for many years. He said he does not want Council to sign a Resolution on something that does not make any sense. He does not want Council to sign anything until they know exactly what they are doing. They are not going to be doing emergency services. They will be transporting only. The Resolution need to specify the geographic boundaries to provide their services within the locality. It does need to say they can operate in Buena Vista. We can modify this to say they can operate in the City.

**RESOLUTION to Authorize Kiwi Emergency Medical Services (KIWI) to Operate as Private Emergency Medical Transport Agency in Buena Vista – R22-20**

11/17/2022

**WHEREAS**, Kiwi Emergency Medical Services (KIWI) is a private Ground Ambulance ALS and Ground Ambulance BLS agency licensed by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (VAOEMS); and,

**WHEREAS**, VAOEMS regulations require that the governing body, where a VOEMS licensed EMS agency is sited, to authorize the agency to operate and designate the authorized area of operation; and,

**WHEREAS**, KIWI has acknowledged its requirement to comply with all applicable State and Local codes and regulations.

**WHEREAS**, KIWI may not attempt to provide services to, nor shall it respond to, emergency situations (Commonly known as “911 calls”) unless requested by the Buena Vista Rescue Squad and/or through a separate agreement with the City of Buena Vista.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, pursuant to 12VAC5-31-420 of the Virginia Administrative Code, Kiwi Emergency Medical Services, is hereby authorized to operate a Private Ground Ambulance ALS and Ground Ambulance BLS agency and on-site standby EMS services in the City of Buena Vista, with a service area within the geographic boundaries of the City, subject to adherence to all applicable State and Local codes and regulations.

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William Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

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Date

Councilman Cooper made motion to approve the Resolution as presented by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Councilman Staton, carried by Council.

**NB #4: FIRST READING OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE:**

Mr. Tyree read the following Ordinance:

**BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE – ORD 23-02**

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 2021 the City of Buena Vista adopted its budget for Fiscal Year 2022;  
and

**WHEREAS**, The City Council approved certain ongoing projects and activities that required additional funds and usage of fund balances to be reappropriated during the current fiscal year.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, By the Council for the City of Buena Vista, Virginia, in accordance with Section 15.2-2507 of the 1950 Code of Virginia that the Budget be amended to increase the following line items by the amounts shown:

	Debit	Credit
Fire Department- Fire Fighter Equipment	56,220	
Rescue Squad- ARPA Allocation	25,000	
Park Department- Electrical Upgrade	124,350	
Public Works Department- Equipment	70,775	
Streets Department- Vehicles	159,208	
Public Works Department- Vehicles	190,584	
Public Works Department- Backhoe	112,575	
COVID Hazard Duty Pay	105,350	
Federal Funds- ARPA Funding		7,979,308

Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows:

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



Stanley Coffey	X		X		
Steve Webb	X			X	

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

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Dawn M. Wheeler  
Clerk of Council

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William H. Fitzgerald  
Mayor