

REGULAR MEETING

June 24, 2008

At a regular meeting of Council held this evening at 7:00 p.m., there were present: Mayor Rodney Eagle; City Manager Kurt Hodgen; City Attorney Earl Q. Thumma, Jr.; Vice-Mayor George W. Pace; Council Members Charles R. Chenault, Carolyn W. Frank, and Ted Byrd; City Clerk Yvonne “Bonnie” Ryan, MMC; and Chief of Police Donald Harper.

Vice-Mayor Pace gave the invocation, and Mayor Eagle led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Frank offered a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of the minutes and the second reading of a supplemental appropriation for the Parks and Recreation Department. The motion also included amending and re-enacting Sections 11-1-1, 11-6-1 and 13-1-3, and amending Section 10-2-26 of the Harrisonburg City Code. The motion was seconded by Council Member Chenault and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Chenault
Vice-Mayor Pace
Council Member Frank
Council Member Byrd
Mayor Eagle

Absent – None

Vice-Mayor Pace offered a motion to amend and re-enact Section 7-4-1 (Schedule of rates and charges for water and sewer) of the Harrisonburg City Code for a second reading. The motion was seconded by Council Member Frank and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Chenault
Vice-Mayor Pace
Council Member Frank
Council Member Byrd
Mayor Eagle

Absent – None

The next item of business was a request from Interim City Treasurer Jeff Shafer to write-off an insurance deductible charge. Mr. Shafer said that in March of 2005, a theft occurred in the Treasurer’s office resulting in the loss of \$7,547.97. Insurance covered \$6,297.97 of this amount with the balance of \$1,250 being the deductible amount of the insurance policy. Vice-Mayor Pace offered a motion to approve this request as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Byrd and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Chenault
Vice-Mayor Pace
Council Member Frank
Council Member Byrd
Mayor Eagle

Absent – None

Miriam Dickler, Public Information Officer and Thanh Dang, Environmental Specialist, presented an overview of the Virginia Municipal League’s “Green Government Challenge”. The “GoGreen Virginia” initiative is encouraging communities to reduce energy usage and promote sustainability at the government level. The “Challenge” is designed to encourage implementation of specific environmental policies and practical actions that can save local governments money. If Harrisonburg receives 100 points out of a possible 200 points, it can become a certified “Green City”. Ms. Dang reviewed the many accomplishments the City achieved to earn points toward the “GoGreen Virginia” challenge. These accomplishments include formal adoption of a sustainability plan, membership in ICLEI, conducting a baseline emissions inventory, implementing an internal government recycling program, and adopting a “Green Fleet” policy. Further accomplishments include adopting land-use policy plans for higher-density development, promoting permanent conservation easements, implementing a tree preservation plan, implementing an educational program, establishing a Safe Routes to School program, implementing a local farm/produce program, and innovation credits. Following further discussion and comments, Council Member Chenault offered a motion to participate in the Virginia Municipal League’s Green Government Challenge. The motion was seconded by Council Member Byrd and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Chenault
Vice-Mayor Pace
Council Member Frank
Council Member Byrd
Mayor Eagle

Absent – None

Council Member Chenault offered a motion to extend the re-appointment of City Manager Kurt D. Hodgen until January 3, 2011. The motion was seconded by Council Member Frank and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Chenault
Vice-Mayor Pace
Council Member Frank
Council Member Byrd
Mayor Eagle

Absent – None

Council Member Chenault offered a motion to extend the term of office and employment agreement with City Attorney Earl Thumma until January 2, 2009. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Pace and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Chenault
Vice-Mayor Pace
Council Member Frank
Council Member Byrd
Mayor Eagle

Absent – None

Council Member Frank offered a motion to refer a request for a dance hall permit from Luis Gomez (Pupuseria y Restaurant Sonia) to the Police Department. The motion was seconded by Council Member Byrd and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Chenault
Vice-Mayor Pace
Council Member Frank
Council Member Byrd
Mayor Eagle

Absent – None

City Manager Hodgen presented a request for a supplemental appropriation for the Transportation Department. These funds will be used for various department services. Vice-Mayor Pace offered a motion to approve this request for a first reading, and that:

\$20,000.00 chge. to: 2111-31695 Sale of Services to Departments

\$ 4,000.00 approp. to: 2111-612141-42110 Workers comp

12,000.00 approp. to: 2111-612141-43330 Maint & Rep-Mach & equip

4,000.00 approp. to: 2111-612141-42050 Hospital insurance

The motion was seconded by Council Member Frank and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Chenault
Vice-Mayor Pace
Council Member Frank
Council Member Byrd
Mayor Eagle

Absent – None

Council asked City Manager Hodgen to provide information regarding whether a business owning vacant lots on Pleasant Hill Road can offer parking spaces to James Madison University's freshmen, especially since freshmen cannot have cars on campus.

At 8:10 p.m., Council Member Chenault offered a motion that Council enter into a closed session for discussion and consideration of the acquisition of real estate to be used for public purposes, exempt from the public meeting requirements pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Frank and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Chenault
Vice-Mayor Pace
Council Member Frank
Council Member Byrd
Mayor Eagle

Absent – None

At 9:30 p.m., the closed session ended and the regular session reconvened. City Attorney Thumma read the following statement, which was agreed to with a unanimous recorded vote of Council: I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that (1) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirement pursuant to Chapter 21 of Title 2.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened, were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed session by the City Council.

At 9:31 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR