

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 24, 1997

At a regular meeting of Council held this evening at 7:30 p.m., there were present: Mayor Rodney Eagle; City Manager Steven E. Stewart; Assistant City Manager Roger Baker; City Attorney Earl Q. Thumma, Jr.; Vice-Mayor Hugh J. Lantz; Council Members John H. Byrd, Jr., Walter F. Green, III, and Larry M. Rogers; City Clerk Yvonne Bonnie Ryan and Chief of Police Donald Harper.

Council Member Green delivered the invocation and Mayor Eagle led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Green offered a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of the minutes and the second reading of an ordinance amending and re-enacting Section 10-3-91, 10-3-79, 10-3-97 and Title 10, Chapter 2. Subdivision Regulations of the Harrisonburg City Code. The motion also included the second reading for a supplemental appropriation for the Commissioner of Revenue, Fire Department and a Capital Projects Fund. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers, and approved with a unanimous recorded vote of Council.

Richard Astarb, project architect for Moseley, Harris & McClintock, reported on the renovations for the Court Service offices in the Lower Courts Facility. He noted that the low bidder was Harman Construction Company. He explained that the cost for the project was over budget because it included higher mechanical, electrical and system control costs. Mr. Astarb also explained that \$27,000 of the discrepancy cost was his error in projecting the original cost by not including profit and overhead. The mechanical control system and the duress and fire alarm systems are fairly sophisticated since they are wired into the jail's monitor station for 24-hour-a-day observation. Discussion included the sophisticated alarm and intercom system, panic alarm electrical system, failed electrical alarm equipment, confidentially sound proof walls, safety devices, heating, air-conditioning, sprinkler, plumbing, pre-designed sketches and higher construction costs. City Manager Stewart noted that the 1997-98 budget was based on the City's contribution of \$50,000. Following further discussion and comments, Vice-Mayor Lantz reluctantly offered a motion to pay one-half of the renovation costs for the Court Services offices and said that perhaps the City should take steps in the future to oversee such construction projects more closely, including providing input from the City and County before the project advanced to the bidding phase. The motion was seconded reluctantly by Council Member Green, and approved with a unanimous recorded vote of Council.

City Manager Stewart explained that the Retail Merchants Association has requested blocking certain streets around Court Square and a portion of North Main Street on August 23 for an Arts and Craft show. The street will be closed from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. He explained that the Harrisonburg Retail Merchants want to expand the Arts and Craft show to include a car show. The appropriate staff members reviewed the request and supported closing streets around Court Square, but recommended leaving the appropriate 18' fire lane and movable barricades. Staff did

not support closing the requested portion of North Main Street. Council Member Rogers offered a motion to close a portion of Court Square only on August 23. The motion was seconded by Council Member Byrd, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

City Manager Stewart presented an application for fireworks display at Spotswood Country Club on July 4, 1997. He explained that Skyfire Fireworks Displays has completed the appropriate application and they have met all Fire Department requirements. Council Member Green offered a motion to approve this request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

Public Works Director Baker announced that Hammond-Mitchell, Inc. was the low bidder at \$533,081.30 for rebuilding of the Grace Street Bridge and a sewer line replacement. He noted that the bridge needed complete replacement and said this project will widen the bridge, include a new sidewalk on the south side, and replace a sanitary sewer line adjacent to the bridge along Blacks Run. The project is scheduled to begin July 15 and be completed by November 15. Council Member Green offered a motion to award this contract to Hammond-Mitchell, Inc. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

Jim Triplett representing the School Board presented a request to transfer school funds. Increased food costs for food service make this transfer necessary. Council Member Rogers offered a motion to approve the transfer of these funds.

\$20,000 chge. to: 111114-40610 Instruction

\$10,000 approp. to: 111114-40650 School Food Service
10,000 approp. to: 111114-40640 Operation & Maintenance

The motion was seconded by Council Member Byrd, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

City Manager Stewart presented a request to transfer Sanitation Funds for the Steam Plant to Sanitation Capital Projects Funds for the Steam Plant. These funds will be used for equipment replacement and emission controls at the Steam Plant. Council Member Green offered a motion to approve the transfer of these funds.

\$25,000.00 chge. to: 2014-912242-43330 CISAT
23,000.00 chge. to: 2014-932042-43865 Landfill
60,303.37 chge. to: 2014-972043-48186 Steam Plant
25,287.23 chge. to: 2014-972043-48286 Steam Plant

\$133,590.60 approp. to: 2014-992042-49216 Transfer to Capital Projects

\$133,590.60 chge. to: 1324-34270 Transfer from Sanitation Fund

\$133,590.60 approp. to: 1324-910142-48682 Retro-Fit Steam Plant

The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

City Manager Stewart presented a request for a supplemental appropriation for the School Board. These funds will be used for textbooks, related materials, technology, band instruments, special education - a regional program, Title I reading program, special education - Title VIB, and preschool. Vice-Mayor Lantz offered a motion to approve this request for a first reading, and that:

\$158,209.00 chge. to: 111114-31010 Amount from Fund Balance
 49,522.00 chge. to: 111114-31691 School Revenue - Other
 30,634.00 chge. to: 111114-33301 School Revenue - Federal

\$238,365.00 approp. to: 111114-40610 Instruction

The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers, and approved with a unanimous recorded vote of Council.

Council Member Rogers announced that on July 4-6, a mountain-bike race will be held at Massanutten Resort. The event, which is being featured in this country, is only held once per year. Tourists staying in Harrisonburg motels will need transportation to the event. He suggested that a transit bus and driver could transport these tourists to the event. The Redevelopment and Housing Authority is willing to pay 50% of the cost, if the City picks up the other 50%. Council Member Rogers offered a motion that the City of Harrisonburg participate in this event at a cost of \$350.00 for the driver and bus. The motion was seconded by Council Member Green, and approved with a 4-1 vote with Vice-Mayor Lantz voting no.

Planning and Community Development Director Turner announced that building permit requests have really increased. She explained that they issued 95 building permits in May 1997. In comparison, the average number of permits issued each month is approximately 65. This larger volume of requests has created a backlog and put a burden on the inspection schedule. Normally it takes 48 hours to respond to a request, but now it takes 96 hours before the inspection can be completed. She noted that because of a lot of construction now, the number will not decrease. She said that the department has experienced some problems with cancellations because of over speculation from some builders.

Vice-Mayor Lantz offered a motion to paint the words "City of Harrisonburg - Home of Blue Streaks" with a lightning bolt on the Washington Street Water Tank. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

At 8:45 p.m., Council Member Green offered that Council enter an executive session for discussion and consideration of personnel and prospective candidates to be appointed to the Harrisonburg Parking Authority and Harrisonburg Transportation Safety Commission, exempt from the public meeting requirements pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. Consultation with the City Attorney and briefings by staff members pertaining to probable litigation, exempt from public meeting requirements pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia. Discussion and consideration of the acquisition of real estate to be used for public purposes, exempt from public meeting requirements pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

At 9:45 p.m., the executive session was declared closed and the regular session reconvened. City Clerk Ryan read the following statement which was agreed to with a unanimous recorded vote of the Council: I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that (1) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements 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 executive or closed meeting were convened were heard, discussed or considered in the executive session by the City Council.

Council briefly discussed the upcoming Council/School Board work session and preparing responses to the PTA/PTO questions.

Council Member Rogers offered a motion that Steven G. Watts, 1416 Country Club Court, be appointed to a term on the Harrisonburg Transportation Safety Commission. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lantz, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

Vice-Mayor Lantz offered a motion that Ken Surber, 42 Emery Street, be appointed to fill the unexpired term of John B. Hoover on the Harrisonburg Parking Authority to expire on November 28, 1999. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

At 10:25 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted the meeting was adjourned.


CLERK


MAYOR