

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 14, 2001

At a regular meeting of Council held this evening at 7:30 p.m., there were present: Mayor Carolyn W. Frank; City Manager Roger Baker; Assistant City Manager Kurt Hodgen; City Attorney Thomas H. Miller, Jr., Vice-Mayor Dorn W. Peterson; Council Member Larry M. Rogers, Hugh J. Lantz, Joseph Gus Fitzgerald; City Clerk Yvonne Bonnie Ryan, CMC/MMCA, and Police Captain Malcolm Wilfong. Absent: Chief of Police Donald Harper.

Mayor Frank delivered the invocation led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Fitzgerald offered a motion to approve the minutes on the consent agenda and to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

Mayor Frank

Absent - None

Planning and Community Development Director Turner introduced a request by Triad Engineering for a special use permit. She explained that the applicant is requesting to construct and occupy additional professional office space for new employees within the M-1 General Industrial District. Triad Engineering is located at 971 Acorn Drive. Mrs. Turner reviewed the surrounding uses in the area. The proposed structure is a twelve by twenty-four foot manufactured trailer and is to be located at the rear of their property directly behind the main office facility. She said that Planning Commission recommended approval.

At 7:38 p.m., Mayor Frank closed the regular session temporarily and called the evening's first public hearing to order. The following notice appeared in the Daily News-Record on Monday, July 30, and Monday, August 6, 2001.

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**The Harrisonburg City Council will hold public hearings on Tuesday, August 14, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, City Council Chamber, 345 South Main Street, to consider the following:**

**SPECIAL USE PERMIT**

**Public hearing to consider a request by Triad Engineering, Inc., for a special use permit {Section 10-3-97 (3)} to allow for additional professional office space for new employees, within the M-1, General Industrial District. The site is located on tax map parcels 56-C-5 (84,291 Square Feet) and is located at 971 Acorn Drive.**

**Maps and other information are available for review in the Community Development Department, 409 South Main Street, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**All persons interested will have an opportunity to express their views at these public hearings. Any individual requiring auxiliary aids, including signers, in connection with the public hearing shall notify the City Manager at least (5) five days prior to the date of the meeting.**

**CITY OF HARRISONBURG**

**Roger D. Baker**

**City Manager**

Mayor Frank called on anyone desiring to speak for or against this request.

Matt Robinson, a landscape architect with Triad Engineering, said that he was speaking in favor of the special use permit and was available to answer questions. There being no others desiring to be heard, the public hearing was declared closed at 7:38 p.m., and the regular session reconvened. Vice-Mayor Peterson offered a motion to approve this request. The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

Mayor Frank

Absent - None

Planning and Community Development Director Turner introduced a request to amend Section 10-3-41, Section 10-3-47, and Section 10-3-53 of the Harrisonburg City Code. She explained that this is amendment is for area and dimensional regulations to increase the maximum number of stories permitted for Single-Family and Two-Family home uses from two to three. This is not a request for an increase in height, but to allow three stories within the 35 feet of height allowed. Currently in the R-2, R-3, and R-4 zoning classifications Single-Family and Two-Family homes are restricted to two stories, but in the R-3 and R-4 zoning classifications, and other multi-family and townhouse structures it can be three stories. She said that Planning Commission recommended approval of the request.

At 7:40 p.m., Mayor Frank closed the regular session temporarily and called the evening s second public hearing to order. The following notice appeared in the Daily News-Record on Monday, July 30, and Monday, August 6, 2001.

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**The Harrisonburg City Council will hold public hearings on Tuesday, August 14, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, City Council Chamber, 345 South Main Street, to consider the following:**

### **ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**Public hearing to consider amending Article I. R-2, Residential District, Section 10-3-41; Article J. R-3, Multiple Dwelling Residential District, Section 10-3-47; and Article K. R-4, Planned Unit Residential District, Section 10-3-53, Area and dimensional regulations to increase the maximum number of stories permitted for Single-Family and Two-Family uses from two to three.**

**Maps and other information are available for review in the Community Development Department, 409 South Main Street, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**All persons interested will have an opportunity to express their views at these public hearings. Any individual requiring auxiliary aids, including signers, in connection with the public hearing shall notify the City Manager at least (5) five days prior to the date of the meeting.**

### **CITY OF HARRISONBURG**

**Roger D. Baker**

**City Manager**

Mayor Frank called on anyone desiring to speak for or against amending these ordinances. There being no one desiring to be heard, the public hearing was declared closed at 7:41 p.m., and the regular session reconvened. Vice-Mayor Peterson offered a motion to amend these ordinances. The recorded roll call vote

was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

Mayor Frank

Absent - None

Commissioner of Revenue Hosaflook presented a request for a supplemental appropriation. She explained that these funds would be used for three software modifications to the current Pentamation Computer System which is used for tax accounting and billing. The highest cost estimate is \$21,000 and \$3,150 will be needed for the annual support of the modifications. These three modifications will include the third party decal vehicle applications, elderly exemption with maximum exemption amount, and efficiency customer service request. Vice-Mayor Peterson offered a motion to approve this request for a first reading.

\$24,150.00 chge. to: 1000-31010 Amount from fund balance

\$ 3,150.00 chge. to: 1000-122011-43320 Maintenance Agreements

21,000.00 chge. to: 1000-122011-48273 Software

The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

Mayor Frank

Absent - None

Vice-Mayor Peterson said he had originally proposed four charter amendments. However, his proposal to change City Council terms so a majority is elected every two years has become very controversial. Dr. Peterson said, I am willing to remove it. The three remaining proposals concern charter amendments, referendum, recall, and filling vacancies on Council.

At 7:50 p.m., Mayor Frank opened the public forum.

George Rontopoulos said that he had discussed the Council terms with a lot of people. He said that the three new members sitting on City Council after last year's election is a perfect example that the charter works as it is. He said, "I don't think that a change is necessary, I think that we should leave it the way that it is."

Ben Fordney said that he was in favor of the proposed amendments. There seems to be a perception on the part of many that amending this charter as Vice-Mayor Peterson has suggested, placing a referendum before voters and permit the recall of a City official are new and radical proposals; however, history teaches that it is not. The progressive movement was looking for ways to reform the political system and to increase the voice of the people in the early 1900's. He said, "We didn't elect our senators in this country until 1913 with the 17<sup>th</sup> amendment. All of these things are designed to give voters the ability to take on specific proposals. Sometimes representatives don't always follow the will of the people and if they don't, it takes four years to rectify that situation. He said, "Let the people of this community decide whether or not they want these charter amendments."

Margaret Haynes said that she appreciated the opportunity to speak about the charter amendments. However, she noted that it was her understanding that the decision had been made and the charter amendments will be going on the ballot in November. This would not be open government. She said, "I am disappointed to have already heard this evening that this is being rushed through because there is a deadline. I don't believe that local government is something that we should rush. I am not opposed to the charter being changed because I have been asking for different charter changes off and on during the last 20 years. But, I am deeply, deeply, troubled by the idea of placing important non-partisan local issues on a very partisan state wide ballot in such a short time. She said that making a change when a vacancy occurs on Council to allow the appointment by remaining members of Council and only until the next election was a good change. But, she said, "I am deeply trouble by referendum. While we all enjoy living in a democratic society, we live in a republic, and we live under representative government. A representative government elects people to make decisions for us. The people elected to represent us have a lot more information and an understanding of specific issues than the general public has. Government by referendum is a California style of government and is not appropriate for Harrisonburg. Leadership can be changed through the current electoral process. At the very least with that proposed change, 10% of the registered voters is a very shallow threshold. That would only be about 1,500 people. She said, "I believe recall of Council Members is unnecessary and it makes people less effective in representative government. If you truly, as a group, want citizen participation, then the process of requesting charter changes needs to be worked on by a variety of interested people representing various points of view. She also suggested several other possible changes in the charter should be considered including perhaps increasing the number of Council Members to seven, consider electing the Council Members by districts or precincts, and let the people decide who will be elected mayor. You can't run to the General Assembly every time somebody comes up with a new idea. I am asking you to slow down and consider forming a focus group to solicit ideas and input from the entire town. Lets truly make this open government with full citizen involvement. Let's look at all of our options before we rush ahead and meet a deadline. Let's be sure we have all of our ducks in a row before placing anything on a ballot and I strongly object to rushing forward and putting it on a November statewide partisan ballot. She said time is needed to educate people before something is being introduced and placed on the ballot."

Bucky Berry said it time for Council Members to get along before considering changes in the charter.

William Painter, a resident living at 80 Perry Street, said that he was opposed to changing the City charter because it would be major change in Harrisonburg's government. He said, "If the majority of Council Members feel you have an obligation because of campaign promises, then I can honor that. However, I don't think 80 days is sufficient time for public discussion. If you feel these changes must be presented to the voters, I would hope it could be at a local election where there would be more lead time, more time for in-depth discussion around the community."

John Wood, a resident living at 1340 Hillcrest Drive, said that even though Vice-Mayor Peterson has made known his wishes to make these charter amendments, this is the first meeting that City Council has invited the public to make a formal statement about it.

At 8:14 p.m., Mayor Frank closed the public forum.

Vice-Mayor Peterson said that he had provided a preliminary draft of these proposals charter amendment changes to other Council Members and hoped everyone had an opportunity to review the amendment proposals. He also said that these proposed changes appeared in the Daily New Record. The biggest benefit in these proposed amendments will be if Council decides to do something that they think might be conversational, Council will be more careful to make sure that the public participates in the preparation. He said, I think that is what we should be doing all the time anyway. But, having the referendum provisions in the charter at least assures Council will not be making big decisions without public involvement. Before the last election, City Council went off on a project and there was no legal way the citizens could prevent it.

Council Member Lantz said that he was opposed to all of the proposed charter amendments. He commented that the proposal to recall a Council Member would not change how the City operates because one Council Member cannot dedicate the way the City operates, nor can two Council Members change anything. If a Council Member is not performing for some reason, it will not influence the decision made by a body of five people. If it was wrong to elect three new people to Council, than shame on the voters and they should do a better job at the next election. People are elected to do a job for four years and they should be allowed to that. We have had enough division in the City during the past year including issues concerning schools, a golf course, and charter amendments. This is one more issue that will split this City. Mr. Lantz said, I don't see the real need for it. A referendum sounds good to the public, but we don't have a voice in the decisions made by Federal government regarding sending food to a foreign country or invading another country because we don't have the knowledge about these issues. When I became a Council Member seven years ago, I thought I knew a little about what was going on in the City, and I was dead wrong. It is only when you sit at this table and in this chair, receive a Council packet that usually contains 70 pages or more for every meeting, do you have the knowledge to decide what is best for the City. We are governed by representative government. If the City had a referendum in place when decisions were made about constructing Switzer Dam or building a new recreation facility, I doubt if we would have a sufficient water supply or a recreation department. The average citizen has the capability of making these decisions if you have the knowledge, but unfortunately you are not involved. We are moving too fast and this City is not ready for something that is so radical. Mr. Lantz reiterated that some members on this City Council were not letting citizens get involved, not allowing citizen input, not allowing committees to form, and not having an open government. He said, I don't believe the average citizen understands the ramifications of referendum and recall. We have not done a good job of getting the information out to the public. Mr. Lantz also said that in many national elections, he did not understand the many amendments placed on the ballots.

Council Member Rogers commented that he understood these proposed charter amendments were very important to Vice-Mayor Peterson, but the average citizen did not understand the ramifications. All of the decisions this Council makes are big and depend on individual involvement. One speaker pointed out that this is the first time the public has been given an opportunity to speak on this matter. Every Council Member should sit in these chairs for several years before thinking about changing the function of the charter. The voters may have disagreed with the process of the golf course, but they didn't vote to have the government turned upside down.

City Attorney Miller commented the charter of a City is compatible to its constitution. It is not exactly a constitution, but it is compatible. He said, I would make the observation that historically when something as basic and foundational as a constitution is going to be examined, a tremendous amount of preliminary discussion takes place prior to an up or down vote. It needs to be an up or down vote. There should be no shades of gray in a referendum vote. People will vote yes or no. Before you put people in that position, history would teach that you give folks quite a bit of opportunity to run through all the shades of gray. He said, Saying that we are going to put it to a vote in November is letting the citizens speak may be an oversimplification of what will take place in November.

Mayor Frank said that these amendment changes will be on the August 28<sup>th</sup> City Council agenda. If the amendments are approved by Council, the amendments will be placed on the ballot in the November 2001 election. If voters accept the amendments, the issue must then be considered by the Virginia General Assembly.

Planning and Community Development Director Turner introduced a request by Hope Community Builders, Inc., for a variance to the requirement that all lots front on a public street. She explained that the applicant is requesting approval of a preliminary subdivision plat with a variance for four lots that would not front on a public street. This parcel contains 2.041 acres and is located at the intersection of Kelley Street and Tower Street. It is zoned R-2 General Residential District and is surrounded by several different uses. On December 17, 1991, the City Council approved a preliminary plat for the Tower/Kelley Subdivision, which created six lots within the R-2, Residential District. The lots were then deeded from the City of Harrisonburg to the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) to construct development of low and moderate income housing. However, the HRHA did not construct the units and has passed the above parcels to Hope Community Builders for development. The current request from Hope Community Builders is to re-subdivide the lots into a total of 11 single-family home lots for low and moderate income housing. Eight of these lots front on Kelley Street and three front on Tower Street, but lots 3, 4, 7, and 8 that front on Kelley Street do not meet the R-2, Residential District dimensional requirements. The property is located on a corner lot and because of its depth is not larger enough to put a public street in and still allow 11 single-family home lots. The size of the lot would restrict the ability of the applicant to establish enough lots to make affordable housing an option. The applicant has requested to develop a subdivision with four lots that would not front on a public street, but would be served by easements across lots in front of them to get to the public street. When the request was presented at the Planning Commission meeting, Commissioners asked the applicant to change the configuration to avoid having lots behind lots. The applicant agreed to change the lots so the lots could be accessed directly by easements across the lots in front of them. The lots were designed to share drive-ways with the lots in front of them and would exist existing easements. Hope Community Builders amended the plat. She said that Planning Commission recommended approval of the request. Following further discussion and comments, Council Member Fitzgerald offered a motion to approve this request as presented. The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

No - Mayor Frank

Absent - None

Planning and Community Development Director Turner presented a request by Eldon F. & Susan B. Layman for a variance to the requirement that all lots front on a public street. She explained that this a request for a two-lot subdivision located in the 900 block of South High Street. Subdivisions that don't include requests for variances do not come before City Council. This is a request to subdivide 23,343 square feet located in the 900 block of South High Street into two single family lots. This property is zoned R-1, Single-Family

Residential District and B-2 General Business District, but it is not where the applicant is desiring to construct a single family home. She reviewed the surrounding uses in the area. The site has one single-family house and is larger than the City requires for R-1. It currently does not have frontage on a public street. This property is served by a private driveway that accesses South High Street. Mr. Layman would like to use the area at the rear to construct an additional single-family home. He currently owns and rents the house that is already on the property. The Subdivision Ordinance, Section 10-2-2, variance states that, where a subdivider can show that a provision of this chapter would cause an unnecessary hardship if strictly adhered to, because of topographical or other conditions peculiar to the site...the City Council may authorize a variance. Mr. Layman has sited in his letter that he believes this property has a hardship because of the unusually deep lots, the configuration of Toppin Boulevard, and the topography of the neighborhood, that the lot was missed by the public streets. She said that Planning Commission recommended approval of this subdivision with the associated variance. Council Member Rogers offered a motion to approve this request as presented. The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

No - Mayor Frank

Absent - None

City Manager Baker presented an overview on securing the services of an investment banker. Mr. Baker explained that the City has several major projects to consider including a new public safety building, constructing a new high school, constructing a new water line from the Shenandoah River's South Fork, and rebuilding the City steam plant. These projects could total more than \$80 million. The City would have to borrow some of the money through bonds for the projects. Mr. Baker said, "I believe it would be prudent for the City to contract with an investment banker for financial guidance. If the City decides to go through the VPSA process, a public hearing will have to be held and pass a resolution which could lock the City into a bond sale in October. If an investment banker is used, the schedule would be more flexible to fund a school if the citizens haven't enough input."

City Manager Baker presented a request to temporarily close a portion of Franklin Street for neighborhood block party on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. He explained that City staff has been reluctant to recommend closing a street for a block party in the past because residents could not obtain a \$2 million certificate of insurance to protect it from liability. However, the residents of the 200 block of Franklin Street have followed the procedures and obtained the necessary insurance.

Mac Nichols, a resident living at 217 Franklin Street, explained that the residents would like to close a portion of Franklin Street for a neighborhood block party in an attempt to get their neighbors together to celebrate the end of summer and increase the sense of community in the neighborhood. Mr. Nichols said that the residents are willing to erect barricades and keep an emergency lane open on the street. Council Member Rogers offered a motion to approve this request. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

City Manager Baker presented for Council's consideration amending Code Section 1-1-12

of the Harrisonburg City Code. He explained that each locality is mandated by state and federal law to reprecinct every ten years based on the census information. The Electoral Board has proposed keeping the East and West wards divided by Main Street, but is proposing adding an additional precinct on the East side of the City. Most of the growth in the last ten years has occurred on the East side of the City. The Electoral Board has suggested utilizing Stone Spring School as a new polling place on the East side of the City. Currently the East side of the City is using Spotswood Elementary School and the Simms building as polling places. The West side of the City will continue with two precincts with Keister and Waterman Elementary Schools used as polling places. Following further discussion and comments, Council Member Fitzgerald offered a motion to establish the five precincts and amend Section 1-1-12 of the Harrisonburg City Code for a first reading. The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

Mayor Frank

Absent - None

Police Captain Wilfong presented a request to amend Section 5-5-12 of the Harrisonburg City Code. He explained that this section refers to eligibility requirements in becoming a member of the Auxiliary Police Force. He said that the existing language was too restricting. The language would be changed to read any citizen of the United States who is a resident, *business owner or employed in* the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia and who is between the ages of twenty-one (21) and seventy-five (75) shall be eligible to make application to become a member of the Auxiliary Police Force. Council Member Fitzgerald offered a motion to approve this request for a first reading. The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

Mayor Frank

Absent - None

School Superintendent Ford presented a request for a supplemental appropriation for the School Board. He explained that these funds were received from interest that was earned on the VPSA bond. The funds were used for renovation purposes. Council Member Fitzgerald offered a motion to approve this request.

\$8,817.67 chge. to: 1311-31010 Amount from Fund Balance

4,554.44 chge. to: 1311-31513 Invest earnings

\$13,372.11 approp. to: 1311-910114-48690 Repairs to Elementary Schools

The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

Mayor Frank

Absent - None

Police Captain Wilfong presented a request for a supplemental appropriation for the Police Department. He explained that these grant funds would be used for in-car video cameras. Vice-Mayor Peterson offered a motion to approve this request for a first reading, and that:

\$1,795.53 chge. to: 1000-31010 Amount from fund balance

\$1,795.53 approp. to: 1000-310231 48211 Machinery & equipment (new)

The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

Mayor Frank

Absent - None

Police Captain Wilfong presented a request for a supplemental appropriation for the Police Department. He explained that these grant funds will be used to purchase bulletproof vests for officers. Vice-Mayor Peterson offered a motion to approve this request.

\$7,144.10 chg. to: 1000-31010 Amount from fund balance

\$7,144.10 approp. to: 1000-310231-48140 Bullet proof vests

The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

Mayor Frank

Absent - None

Police Captain Wilfong presented a request for a supplemental appropriation for the Police Department. He explained that these grant funds will be used to purchase police equipment. Vice-Mayor Peterson offered a motion to approve this request.

\$5,958.94 chge. to: 1000-31010 Amount from fund balance

\$5,958.94 approp. to: 1000-310331-48211 Machinery & equipment (new)

The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Rogers

Vice-Mayor Peterson

Council Member Fitzgerald

Council Member Rogers

Mayor Frank

Absent - None

George Rontopoulos said that he was concerned about people living in the City paying high gas bills to heat their homes. He said that some residents were experiencing high delivery charges on gas during the summer. He also noted that taxes had increased on the telephones bills. Many residents of the City living on a fixed income cannot afford these increases.

Naomi Curry, a resident of 408 Lee Avenue, said decisions that must be made by City Council concerning spending taxpayer money must be difficult. She said if City Council was considering borrowing about \$80 million for upcoming projects for the City, she wanted some of the money spent on renovations at the Simms School. She said, I want some of my tax dollars spent in the community I care about.

Bucky Berry, said that Colonel Harper was the best Police Chief the City has ever had. He also said, City Council is not allocating enough money for the Police Department. More money needs to be provided to hire more police officers.

David Ehrenpreis, a resident of Franklin Street, said that steps needed to be taken to improve the overcrowding in the schools. The long range school plan does make sense, but he questioned how it will be managed. He urged City Council to get citizens involved in the planning process.

Council Member Lantz commented that City Council does not endorse the School Board's long range plan. Mr. Lantz said, We have never endorsed it and will not endorse it. The School Board is requesting that City Council appropriate \$40 million for building a new high school. The State Constitution does not allow local government to have the authority to make decisions concerning the configuration.

City Attorney Miller said that City Council only had so much authority in these issues and is following the law.

Chuck Heckman, a resident living at 1555 Shank Drive, questioned who would be looking at the overall plan because it would affect the entire community.

Paul Riner said he was concerned that people who oppose the School Board's plan have been referring to the school as a mega school. He said that a 1,300 to 1,500 student school is not a mega school, but it will be an AAA school. The question is not the configuration of the school, but whether a new high school is needed. The current high school is overcrowded. He also noted that it is hard for teachers to come forward and speak out.

Emily Sargent-Beasley, a resident living at 340 Dixie Avenue, said that teachers need to get involved in the process. She said that everybody has a different perspective on this issue. If the high school is built, it will influence the configuration of the other schools. She said, "I don't think that anybody is saying we don't need a new high school, but rather we are saying before we build that high school or before we change that high school, we need to look and see what is going to follow." The teachers care so much about these students.

Adam Sharp, a resident living at 432 East Rock Street, said that "I believe as a City Council you may not have the ability or the jurisdiction under Virginia law to set School Board policy, but I do feel that you as the holder of the checkbook have a role. It is not to say we don't like this or maybe we do like this, but simply to say let's make sure we can get the most for what we are spending. The City of Harrisonburg would be better served by two high school buildings. The only new sports facility's Harrisonburg High School needs are a new gym, soccer fields and possibly a softball field. We don't need a new football field. More than 1,500 students are a lot of people. We want the most options for our dollars."

Hadley Jenner, a resident living at 1021 Taliaferro Drive, said that he was concerned about the big rush and asked if the City could slow down. "The process is too relaxed about different groups in the City. The School Board may be tired of hearing this, but I think the amount of consideration that was given to the plan for setting up the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade centers was insufficient. Where is the educational research to back what the school board is putting forward? Does the City Council really want to be rushed to judgement and pay for something that isn't thoroughly considered? I am asking you to slow down and to consider an item of educational quality at less cost with a better process. We have choices and I think that we can make them."

Council Member Rogers said that City Council has an opportunity to renovate the former Lucy Simms School and make it into a learning center that will benefit many people. He proposed adding more funding for building renovations. "The City has made a significant investment in the historically segregated part of town, but many black people who live in northeastern Harrisonburg have felt ignored by the City."

Council Member Lantz said that the Simms building is a City asset and we need to maintain it. He questioned if we really know what we want the building to be used for before we put \$2 ½ million into it.

Vice-Mayor Peterson commented there are many renovations that can be done to preserve the structure of the building.

Ken Handrich, a resident living at 610 Broad Street, said that he was involved in the Troyer Group Study on the building so that we know what the major costs are going to be to renovate the Simms building. He said that some long range funding sources need to be identified for the building. He said that many groups and people need to have a voice in the decision being made for a long range plan of the building.

Assistant City Manager Hodgen presented for Council's consideration two names recommended by the Golf Course Advisory Committee. He said that out of over 250 names submitted, a list of 20 names were selected. The top two selections were for the golf course were Heritage Oaks and Deer Tracks. Council Member Fitzgerald offered a motion to accept the Golf Course Advisory Committee first choice of Heritage Oaks. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

At 10:36 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted the meeting was adjourned.

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CLERK

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MAYOR

