

REGULAR MEETING

March 27, 2007

At a regular meeting of Council held this evening at 7:00 p.m., there were present: Mayor Rodney Eagle; City Manager Roger Baker; Assistant 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.

Council Member Byrd gave the invocation and Mayor Eagle led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Mayor Pace offered a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of the minutes and the second reading of supplemental appropriations for the Fire Department, disbursing Dog and Cat Sterilization funds, and purchasing additional park land. The motion also included referring an alley closing request to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Chenault, and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

Absent – None

Dr. Donald Ford, Superintendent of Harrisonburg City Schools, presented the School Board's proposed 2007-2008 budget. He reviewed projected revenues from state funding, Federal funding, and local funds. The budget is based on a projected daily membership of 4,477 in 2007-2008. This number is used for projecting revenue. The overall budget is \$53,763,220. Dr. Ford reviewed the significant budget increases, which included instructional operation at \$38,927,398, administrative/attendance & health services \$2,541,527, bus operation \$1,664,292, maintenance and operations \$4,926,456, food services & other non-instructional operations \$3,008,292, facilities \$2,000, debt service transfer, \$428,223, and technology, \$2,265,032. The revenue estimates for the school division to support the expenditures are divided into state, federal, other, local and un-appropriated. The budget includes a projected average 4% increase for current salaries and health insurance rates will increase by 5% for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The number of new positions included in the budget is determined by the board based on administrative recommendations and public input.

The following discussion by Council Members included: When will the City receive a final answer regarding funding from the state? How does Harrisonburg rank in salaries compared to other school districts in the state? Have projections been made for the ending balance for the unappropriated fund balance for this fiscal year?

City Manager Baker presented a transfer request for the School Board. He said these funds will be transferred from the School Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund. This request will not increase the 2006-2007 budget. Council Member Chenault offered a motion to approve transferring these funds, and that:

\$3,721,550.00 chge. to: 1000-34292 Transfer from School Capital Projects Fund
3,721,500.00 chge. to: 1310-34210 Transfer from General Fund
3,721,550.00 chge. to: 1311-910114-48700 Elementary/Middle School

\$3,721,550.00 approp. to: 1000-990111-49216 Transfer to General Cap Projects Fund
721,550.00 approp. to: 1310-910141-48636 Stone Spring Road Improvement
2,000,000.00 approp. to: 1310-910141-48665 Erickson Avenue-South High to Main
1,000,000.00 approp. to: 1310-910141-48696 Linda Lane Extension

The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Pace, and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

Absent – None

Public Works Director Baker presented a request for the Public Works Department. He said that these funds will be used to purchase right-of-way for Port Republic Road, Phase III project. Council Member Chenault offered a motion to approve this request for a first reading, and that:

\$178,000 chge. to: 1000-31010 Amount from Fund Balance
178,000 chge. to: 1310-34210 Transfer from Gen. Capital Project Fund

\$178,000 approp. to: 1000-990111-49216 Transfer to Capital Projects
178,000 approp. to: 1000-910141-48617 Port Republic Road Street Improvements

The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Pace, and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

Absent – None

Police Chief Harper presented a request for the Police Department. He said that these funds will be used to purchase supplies and training for forensic computers. Council Member Chenault offered a motion to approve this request for a first reading, and that:

\$6,132.50 chge. to: 1000-33571 Special Awards Block Grant

\$6,132.50 approp. to: 1000-31031-48211 Mach./equipment

The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Pace, and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

Absent – None

Council Member Chenault offered a motion to approve the City's Design and Construction Standards Manual. The motion was seconded by Council Member Frank, and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

Absent – None

Transportation Planner Donovan Branche presented a brief report on parking and traffic-related issues in the Memorial Hall/Chestnut Drive area. She said that a meeting was held with residents of the area, City officials and representatives of JMU. Issues discussed included parking, speeding, and the completion of a new parking deck at JMU. She said that the preliminary study revealed that the Chestnut/Grace and Chestnut/Dixie intersections are in need of enhancement. She reviewed some of the low cost improvements that can be made to help the neighborhood.

City Attorney Thumma presented for Council's consideration an ordinance amending and re-enacting Section 13-1-60.01 of the Harrisonburg City Code. Amending this ordinance will add more streets to the Green Permit Parking Zone. Council Member Chenault offered a motion to approve this ordinance for a first 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

Council Member Byrd
Council Member Frank
Vice-Mayor Pace
Mayor Eagle

Absent – None

The next item of business was a report on signalized intersections regarding flashing/not flashing traffic signals. Donovan Branche reviewed the traffic signals in the City. Public Works Director Baker reviewed VDOT traffic signal agreements in the City.

The next item of business was a request to use City property for the Fundfest Concert Series. The concert series will be held on alternating Wednesday evenings beginning May 16th and ending August 22nd. Vice-Mayor Pace offered a motion to approve this request as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Byrd, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

City Manager Baker presented a request from Eastern Mennonite University to close Park Road beginning at Mt. Clinton Pike and ending at Parkwood Drive on April 29th from 12:45 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Council Member Byrd offered a motion to approve a request to close Park Road on April 29th. The motion was seconded by Council Member Frank, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

The next item of business was a presentation by Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance. Eddie Bumbaugh, Executive Director of Harrisonburg Renaissance, updated the progress and accomplishments for HDR. The City Exchange project, which contains 32 upscale loft apartments and Downtown 56 restaurant received an award from Dominion Directions, Valley Conservation Counsel and the Chamber of Commerce. Two workshops have been held with National Workshop Connections over the last quarter related to Heritage Tourism. A fund raising event, “Renaissance Night”, will be held on May 12th at Dave’s Downtown Taverna. The Court Day Festival is scheduled for June 2nd. HDR is working with Citizens for Downtown on the “Friday on the Square” event with concerts and movies.

Vice-Mayor Pace made a motion to endorse and support a request by Dave Miller of Dave’s Downtown Taverna for permission to provide a Food and Beer Garden in the parking lot adjoining the restaurant subject to final approval by the owner of the proposed site (Massanutten Regional Library). The motion included closing the street for the Valley 4th and a Cruise-In event in August. The motion was seconded by Council Member Chenault, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

Lisa Ha, Harrisonburg Parking Services Coordinator, reviewed and explained how the new parking device will work. She said that the parking device has the capability to read license plates and print out photos of the violating car if there is a violation. She also reviewed changes being implemented in downtown area parking.

At 8:54 p.m., Council Member Chenault offered a motion that Council enter a closed session for consultation with legal counsel regarding proposed contracts requiring the provision of legal advice of such legal counsel, exempt from public meeting requirements pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(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 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Byrd, and approved with approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

Absent – None

At 11:50 p.m., the closed session ended and the regular session reconvened. City Clerk Ryan 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 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 closed session was convened, were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session by the City Council.

At 11:52 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted the meeting was adjourned.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR