

## REGULAR MEETING

January 25, 2011

At a regular meeting held this evening at 7:00 p.m. there were present: Mayor Richard Baugh, Vice-Mayor Ted Byrd, Council Members Kai Degner, Charles Chenault, and David Wiens. Also present were: City Manager Kurt Hodgen, Assistant City Manager Anne C. Lewis, City Attorney Earl Q. Thumma, Jr., City Clerk Erica Kann and Chief of Police Donald Harper. Absent: None.

Mayor Baugh gave the invocation and also led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bethany Houff, Director of Music for the Harrisonburg High School's musical, shared with Council and community members that the musical this year is *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* and provided the performance dates of Thursday, February 17 through Sunday, February 20, 2011. She introduced cast members Dorrall Price, Maggie Siciliano, and Kirsten Ferguson who performed the song "Been a Long Day" from the upcoming musical.

Vice-Mayor Byrd offered a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, the second reading to consider supplemental appropriation to the Police Department in the amount of \$480.56 and in the amount of \$414.06. The motion was seconded by Council Member Chenault and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Mayor Baugh  
Vice-Mayor Byrd  
Council Member Degner  
Council Member Chenault  
Council Member Wiens

No - None

June Hosaflook, Commissioner of Revenue, gave an overview of the 14 month cycle of the real estate reassessment process. She also stated that the question has come up "should the City continue to spend money on the reassessment process during the recession"? Mrs. Hosaflook feels that we should continue to do a yearly reassessment because it is a way for us to serve our taxpayers with controlling the percentage of change each year and the City is served with a dependable program.

Lisa Neunlist, Real Estate Director, began by informing Council that another successful reassessment has been completed. She provided more details on the reassessment process and how she obtains her numbers and information. She also stated that her staff's education is a factor to that success and thanked Council for their

continued support. Mrs. Neunlist noted that there was a decrease in the reassessment for the previous year.

David Walsh, Golf Course Study Committee member, presented Council with the findings and recommendations that the Committee has developed since October 2010. Mr. Walsh stated that the Committee feels that a General Manager position needs to be utilized and available at the Heritage Oaks Golf Course, not devoting all of his time to the golf course, but to be available at the golf course. He noted that they aren't suggesting hiring a General Manager, but rearranging current personnel of the Parks and Recreation Department. The General Manager would handle administrative matters and coordinate the operation of the Golf Course. With a General Manager in place, they feel the Golf Pro and Director of First Tee can utilize his/her time more effectively. The Committee also feels that the First Tee Foundation can be an advisor to the General Manager. The Committee recommended that the position of the Assistant Golf Professional be eliminated and replaced by a Program Manager/Marketing Director that would know how to market a golf course and attract new golfers. One key update mentioned was to make changes to the current website. The City could utilize James Madison University students to design an up-to-date website if the City doesn't have the ability to keep it updated. Another key improvement needed is the enhancement of customer service with lines of communication which they feel will be solved with the creation of the General Manager and staff training. Further, they suggested establishing a Golf Course Committee with guidelines set to make sure that recommendations would be processed and carried out. The Committee also recommended a 10% decrease in expenses in the Pro Shop in addition to the following ideas: reduce inventory, Rangers' (players' assistance) be made up as volunteers for the exchange of free golf, cut back part-time employees, and use staff that is on hand to multitask. Mr. Walsh also stated a recommendation to reduce the maintenance budget by reducing payroll, but would not cut corners on maintenance which could result in less than favorable course conditions. The Committee recommended that food and beverage be available for the golfer before and after a round of golf. They suggested that the existing cart shed become a spot for food and beverage and that the City build a new cart shed, and extend a deck off the existing facility that overlooks the Golf Course. They also feel that as population grows and the facilities grow, more rounds of golf will be played and the expenditure and revenue will start to even out. The Committee also recommended changes to the course such as adding water to Hole 14 and add a "wow factor". They recommended that volunteer groups such as garden clubs, men's group, and women's group help beautify the Golf Course. The Committee believes that the Golf Course has already been a success; it is a great amenity and it adds to the quality of life and enjoyment of our community.

Todd Bale, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club, updated Council on the past year's activities of the Club. Mr. Bale stated that the Boys and Girls Club provides youth development and stated the mission of the organization. He stated that the youth are being served at the Simms Center with programs such as Teen's Center and the partner collaboration in City Schools. The Club has served 780 youth this year. Mr. Bale stated that due to recent tragedy in the community, the community asked for

Saturday hours, a Boy Scout Troop, and art programs for the kids. He also reported that for the first time in four years, they were able to balance their budget. Mr. Bale asked Council to consider restoring \$8,000.00 to fund the additional programs that were recently added. He also introduced a member that joined the Boys and Girls Club six years ago, Brent Berry.

Brent Berry, read a speech about how the Boys and Girls Club accepted him when no one else would, his enjoyment of the Club, and how his special needs are met at the facility.

Mr. Bale concluded by thanking Council for their support, facility, and investment.

Karen Thomas, President of the Northeast Neighborhood Association, spoke on behalf of the association and said they show full support of the Boys and Girls Club. She stated that they have great programs that are geared toward at-risk youth of the City. Ms. Thomas again asked Council to consider making minimal funds available to help keep the Saturday hours for the Boys and Girls Club. She closed by thanking Council for their ongoing support towards the Club and the Association.

Council Member Chenault offered a motion to restore \$8,000.00 to the Boys and Girls Club for the newly added programs. Council Member Wiens seconded the motion. However, after further discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn until Mr. Bale provided exact numbers for the programs.

City Manager Hodgen stated that bids were open for the School Board project this past Friday, January 21, 2011 for the renovation of One Court Square and five bids were received. The lowest bid was \$2,801,650.00 which is lower than the one received in 2007 and includes renovation of all the floors including the basement. City Manager Hodgen stated that the bids are good for 30 days, so there is no need for a decision by Council tonight. However, he did state that the School Board Liaison Committee will meet February 1, 2011 to discuss these matters.

Mayor Baugh presented Council two requests for street closures. The first one was for the Harrisonburg Education Foundation to close Garbers Church Road on May 14, 2011 for the Sherry Burcham Anderson Memorial 5k Run/Walk. The second was for the closing of Park Road during the Commencement Exercise for Eastern Mennonite University on May 1, 2011. Vice-Mayor Byrd offered a motion to approve both Garbers Church Road and Park Road street closures. The motion was seconded by Council Member Chenault and approved with a unanimous voice vote.

City Manager Hodgen reported that he, Jim Baker, Drew Williams, Mayor Baugh, and Council Member Chenault went down to Richmond today and met with the Deputy Secretary of Transportation about an allocation for Phase 3 of Stone Spring/Erickson Project. City Manager Hodgen stated that he feels that it was a positive meeting and they

hope to have the project will stay on the list of the Governor's Transportation Plan to receive funding.

Council Member Chenault made a recommendation that staff look at the possibility of eliminating City stickers, but keeping the revenue of the stickers. City Manager Hodgen stated that he would check with the Police Department and the Treasurer's office to see what impact, if any, they would see from this.

At 8:20 p.m., Vice-Mayor Byrd offered a motion that Council enter into a closed session for discussion and consideration of the acquisition and disposition of real estate, 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 Chenault and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes -	Mayor Baugh Vice-Mayor Byrd Council Member Degner Council Member Chenault Council Member Wiens
No -	None

At 8:35 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 8:37 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR