

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 11, 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.

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

Council Member Rogers offered a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of the minutes and setting a public hearing date of November 25, 1997 to consider the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The motion was seconded by Council Member Byrd, and approved with a unanimous recorded vote of Council.

City Manager Stewart presented the following resolution for Council's consideration of approval:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Friendship Industries, Inc., an employment training enterprise providing training, employment and community job opportunities for persons with disabilities and other economically and vocationally disadvantaged individuals, plans to construct a new industrial facility of approximately 40,000 to 42,000 square feet; and

WHEREAS, the construction of a new industrial facility by Friendship Industries, Inc., will allow the organization to respond to the growth in the need for employment services for persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the population directly served by Friendship Industries, Inc., has grown to more than 120 persons per year; and

WHEREAS, the commercial billings of Friendship Industries, Inc., has grown from less than \$400,000 to more than \$1,400,000 in just three years; however, the amount of work that can be produced, the number of people that can be trained and employed and the self-sufficiency possible for Friendship Industries, Inc., is thwarted by the limited physical facilities now available to its operation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia, that said Council does recognize the vital role that Friendship Industries, Inc., plays in our community in providing employment, training and job opportunities for persons with disabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Council does hereby applaud the ability of Friendship Industries, Inc., to dramatically increase its commercial billings by more than a factor of three in just three years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Council does hereby enthusiastically endorse and support the plans of Friendship Industries, Inc., to construct a new industrial facility in order to meet the growing needs for providing the aforementioned services to persons with disabilities in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

Given under my hand this eleventh day of November in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven, A.D.

Rodney L. Eagle, Mayor

Attest:

Yvonne Ryan, CMC
City Clerk

George Homan representing Friendship Industries stated that he was appearing before City Council to request support of the resolution for the construction of a new facility. He explained that constructing a new facility will allow the organization to respond to the growing needs for providing employment to persons with disabilities in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. A larger facility will also allow the organization to explore some new grant revenue processes. Council Member Rogers offered a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Council Member Green, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

Hugo Kohl representing First Night Harrisonburg requested support for the festival by closing certain downtown streets and approving the fireworks permit. He explained that the request is consistent with last year's street closings and the fireworks display will be the same. Council Member Rogers offered a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Byrd, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

Council Member Green presented a brief report on personal property taxes. He explained that the committee which has met twice is attempting to make the filing and payment of taxes as simple as possible for the taxpayer, while trying to reduce confusion over tax payment deadlines and hopefully reduce delinquencies. They are trying to set a filing date and/or method with which the public can more readily comply (possibly associated with the issuance of decals) and coordinating a payment schedule - possibly twice a year with the real estate taxes. He noted that these changes are an effort to reduce penalties necessitated by failure to comply and thus make the collection of delinquent taxes less of a problem and returning the position of collector to the normal function of

the Treasurer's office. He said that the City Attorney will prepare the proposed changes to the code which will be on the November 25 City Council agenda.

Jim Triplett representing the School Board presented a request for a supplemental appropriation from unanticipated receipts from Federal and State revenue sources. He explained that these funds will be used in Vocational Education, Immigrant Education, Title VI for library books and supplies, Safe and Drug Free School Implementation, Special Education, and At-Risk 4 year olds. This supplemental appropriation requires no new local dollars. Council Member Green offered a motion to approve this request for a first reading, and that:

\$ 1,960.00 chge. to: 111114-32442 School Revenue - State
19,930.00 chge. to: 111114-33301 School Revenue - Federal

\$21,890.00 approp. to: 111114-40610 Instruction

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

City Attorney Thumma introduced a request to amend Sections 4-2-87, 4-2-88 and 4-2-89 of the City Code. He explained that these proposed changes in the meals tax ordinance would clearly define meals that can be taxed. The ordinance now imposes the tax on food items sold by restaurants, but does not define food items. Mr. Thumma noted that the amended language will change from food items to meals as defined in the ordinance. Council Member Green offered a motion to amend Section 4-2-87, 4-2-88 and 4-2-89 of the City Code for a first reading. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers, and approved with a unanimous recorded vote of Council.

Assistant City Manager Baker presented a brief report on soccer fields. He explained that the contractor has started installing the electrical wiring in preparation for the pump. The fields are basically ready, the parking lot has been graded and graveled, and the road into the site is finished. At the present, it is too wet to cut sod; however, the sod will be in place by next Spring.

At 7:50 p.m., Council Member Rogers offered a motion that Council enter an executive session for discussion and evaluation of two City departments, exempt from the public meeting requirements pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. Consultation with the City Attorney pertaining to an existing and proposed agreement, requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney, 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, namely, economic development, 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 Green, and approved with a unanimous vote of Council.

At 10:30 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.

At 10:31 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted the meeting was adjourned.

Yvonne Ryan, CMA

CLERK

Rodney L. Eagle

MAYOR